

## Pakistan offers Gulf peace plan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Monday proposed a six-point peace plan to end the 19-day-old Gulf war, his latest attempt to stem mounting support for Iraq. Mr. Sharif is scheduled to leave early next week on his second peace mission to Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. He visited six countries last month. The prime minister outlined his plan to parliament. He called for a general ceasefire and withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, followed by the removal of all foreign forces from the Gulf. He said these troops should be replaced by a combined force comprised of the Gulf states. Mr. Sharif said a summit of Islamic countries who are members of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference should be held to bring about peace in the region and solve its problems. He also said Islamic sharia, including those in Iraq, should be declared as peace zones. He also said the problems of Kuwait, Palestine and Kashmir should be settled on the basis of U.N. resolutions.

# Jordan Times

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## Palestinians to stop rocket attacks

SIDON (R) — Pro-Iraqi Palestinians will stop rocket attacks against Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, a senior official of the one of the groups said Monday. "The Palestinian groups have decided to stop the rocket attacks on the Zionist enemy because the drawbacks outweigh the advantages," the official said. Palestinian guerrillas, saying they were opening a new front in the Gulf war, last week fired Katyusha rockets for five days at Israel's border strip, causing no casualties. The official said the decision to stop was taken after a long meeting between leaders of the various Palestinian groups based in South Lebanon. "Instead of the rocket attacks, all Palestinian factions will launch more guerrilla land operations, escalating the attacks will be to support the intifada in occupied Palestine and to back Iraq," he said. Israel retaliated for the rockets by pounding Palestinian refugee camps in the south and villages in Iqim Al Toufah, just north of the buffer zone.

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# Baghdad under renewed aerial assault

## Iraq says hit-and-run strategy will continue

Combined agency dispatches

BAGHDAD CAME under heavy bombardment overnight from three waves of allied aircraft. Planes pounding its outskirts apparently included B-52 bombers, the biggest in the American arsenal.

Correspondents in the Iraqi capital, target of relentless bombing since the Gulf war began on Jan. 17, identified the distinctive low rumble of the B-52 strikes on targets southeast and west of Baghdad.

Tracers from anti-aircraft batteries and ground-to-air missiles pierced the night sky and terrified civilians huddled in air raid shelters.

An Iraqi military spokesman said on Baghdad Radio that nine allied aircraft had been shot down in the last 24 hours. One of the planes, he said, went down in Syrian territory and one in the Gulf off Kuwait.

There was no information on the other aircraft.

According to the spokesman the alliance launched 77 air raids on the country over the past 24 hours, a considerable increase over the previous day when the Baghdad government reported 58 attacks.

Since the war started, allied aircraft have flown more than 40,000 sorties on Iraq and Kuwait, according to U.S. military spokesmen.

As the allied bombs pounded Baghdad, official newspapers promised the country was preparing for a ferocious hit-and-run ground war that would end in Iraqi victory.

The daily Al Thawra, the official organ of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, said the country will use its armour, mechanised units and special commando forces in "coming battles."

The article appeared just as residents of Baghdad emerged from their shelters after the more than five hours of bombardment between midnight and dawn.

Witnesses in Baghdad said communication centres, government offices and industrial installations were hit — some of them for the second and third times since the war started Jan. 17.

Some people have left the capital for safer villages and towns, but many of those remaining were jolted from their beds and sent scurrying for public or private shelters as the thud of landing missiles echoed through

the dark streets. Baghdad has no electricity and only intermittent water. The city, divided into five sectors, receives water on a rotating basis.

By daylight, "the view along the River Tigris... showed smoke billowing from a destroyed building," Britain's Independent Television News (ITN) reporter Brent Sadler reported from the scene.

"Several shops were destroyed... (and) shopkeepers who lost their premises were selling goods on the roadside. There wasn't much left," Sadler said. "They were calm and friendly and happy to sell us eggs and Iraqi-grown dates."

They complained that the raid had destroyed a local mosque and took Sadler to see it. One end had been destroyed in a direct hit.

Food, kerosene and gasoline are in short supply. Iraqis are entitled to only 30 litres of gas for 15 days under rationing.

ITN filmed trucks reportedly destroyed by allied bombs on the 1,000-kilometre long highway between Amman and Baghdad.

At least one driver was killed, according to travellers.

Iraq's armed forces daily Al

(Continued on page 5)

## Premier explains move to restrict use of cars

AMMAN (J.T.) — A government decision to restrict the use of private cars on alternate days depending on the number on license plates came as a result of detailed studies conducted by technical committees over the past 15 days, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday.

In a statement following a meeting with the emergency committees at the Upper and Lower House of Parliament Mr. Badran said that his discussion at the meeting was a follow-up to that conducted by the Council of Ministers two days earlier.

The members of the emergency committees were informed of the reports and statistics and the report submitted by the technical committees to the government, the prime minister said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Over the past three months the government introduced the five-day-week work for all government businesses for the sole purpose of saving fuel after Saudi Arabia had stopped supplying Jordan with crude oil through Tapline, the prime minister noted. He said that the government then started building up its oil stocks and

announced that the five-day-week work was only a temporary measure which would be terminated once the country had achieved its aspired goal.

The prime minister said that many voices were raised during that time through television and the media criticising the government's decision as being negative and female government employees in particular raised their voices in protest because the new arrangement did not suit their own life style, he said. The government kept its promise and cancelled the arrangement in due time, he pointed out.

He said that administrative and technical difficulties pertaining to the introduction of coupons were debated and it was found that some supported the government's decision and others supported the coupon idea. This difference in views also displayed itself during a cabinet session, the prime minister added. However, the government will study the coupon proposal and will decide on the better and most suitable option in the light of the experiment the country is about to go through, exactly as in the case of five-day a week

(Continued on page 5)

## Badran denounces attacks on Jordanian oil tankers

AMMAN (J.T.) — Air attacks on Jordanian tankers travelling inside Iraqi frontiers "violated international legitimacy, especially the U.N. Security Council, which allowed Jordan to continue getting its oil supplies from Iraq," Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Monday.

The Jordanian government has sent a formal memorandum to the Security Council following the sanctions resolution followed by another concerning the closure of the Saudi Arabian oil Tapline supplying the Kingdom with crude, the prime minister noted in a statement issued following a meeting with parliament emergency committee.

"The government will continue to import Iraqi crude oil until a substitute source has been found and will continue to import Iraqi chlorine which is needed to purify drinking water and will stop such imports from Iraq when the Security Council Sanctions Committee has given us the substitute source to acquire our oil requirements, according to the memorandum submitted to the Security Council," Mr. Badran said.

He said Jordan received a verbal answer from the council allowing Jordan to continue its crude oil imports from Iraq "until we received a reply about the substitute source."

"The Security Council delegated a special committee to Jordan to examine the country's adherence to the sanctions re-



Mudar Badran

solution and its members visited Al Ruwashed border post to search the vehicles heading for and coming from Baghdad," the prime minister said.

He said the committee found that the oil tankers go empty to Iraq and come back laden with crude oil and that the trucks go empty to Iraq to transport the Jordanians returning from Kuwait.

According to Mr. Badran, the committee submitted a report to the Security Council confirming that Jordan was strictly abiding

by the sanctions resolutions, "but it is surprising to hear voices being raised here and there alleging that Jordan is not abiding by the sanctions resolutions."

"No country can assume the role of the Security Council and allege that another country is not adhering to the sanctions resolutions because this is the sole task of the sanctions committee of the Security Council," the prime minister added.

"Three weeks ago I received a copy of a report issued by the Security Council stressing that Jordan is abiding by the sanctions resolution," he said.

He said that the raids on the Jordanian oil tankers resulted in the death of six truck drivers so far and the injury of seven others and the destruction of 31 vehicles.

He said that the government would pay compensation of JD 10,000 to the family of each of the drivers and His Majesty King Hussein has decided that he would cover the expenses of education of their children from the primary to the university levels.

The prime minister also disclosed that the government had insured all oil tankers transporting oil from Iraq and decided to pay fair and full compensation for all vehicles that have been destroyed and will offer financial incentives to drivers wishing to go to Iraq for the crude oil during this crucial and dangerous time.

## Aziz blasts U.N. chief's silence

NICOSIA (Agencies) —

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz Monday accused U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of ignoring the "crimes" being committed against Iraq by the "U.S.-NATO-Zionist alliance."

He said United Nations objectives were being violated. Baghdad Radio said Mr. Aziz sent a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar Feb. 1 reminding him of an earlier letter describing "heinous and deliberate crimes against Iraqi citizens and their economic, scientific, cultural and religious installations perpetrated by the forces of the U.S.-NATO-Zionist alliance."

The radio report came hours

after the latest allied bombardment of Baghdad, Basra and elsewhere.

Mr. Aziz' letter accused Mr. Perez de Cuellar of remaining "silent about these crimes, which are being committed for the first time in history in the name of the United Nations and under the aegis of the invalid and unjust resolutions that were issued by the U.N. Security Council."

"Mr. Secretary General, your silence on these crimes compounds this 'disgrace,'" Mr. Aziz said. "The objectives the United Nations is supposed to uphold are being violated before the eyes and ears of the U.N. secretary general, who says nothing."

## Rafsanjani offers to meet Saddam, visit U.S. for peace

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN'S PRESIDENT Hashemi Rafsanjani said Monday he was prepared to meet with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to help end the Gulf war. He said he also was willing to talk with Washington.

He told Tehran news conference that a peace initiative to end the 19-day-old war could be launched if Iraq accepts Iranian proposals carried to Baghdad by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hamadi, who left Sunday after a three-day visit.

In his remarks carried by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Mr. Rafsanjani also stressed Iran's neutrality and

emphasised it would stay out of the war even if Turkey entered the conflict.

Iran's peace efforts gathered pace with the announcement that Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belousov would visit Tehran Tuesday.

IRNA quoted Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin as saying in Moscow the visit was "in line with exchange of views with the countries interested in resolving the crisis."

"If there is hope for the salvation of the Iraqi nation, why shouldn't I meet Saddam?" Rafsanjani told a news conference in Tehran reported by IRNA.

He also said that Iran would, if

necessary, contact the United States through the Swiss embassy, which handles U.S. interests in Iran.

"Of course, if the issue of war reaches a stage of peace and in case it is necessary for us to talk to the Americans I think it will be logical," the Iranian leader said.

The White House reacted coolly to the offer.

"They (the Iranians) are not directly involved in this conflict and our interest is getting Iraq out of Kuwait," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "All we've seen is press reports," Mr. Fitzwater said when

(Continued on page 3)

## Shamir vows to reject peace conference

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in his first policy address to parliament of the Gulf war, vowed Monday that Israel would never take part in an international conference on Middle East peace.

Mr. Shamir praised the wide outpouring of support for Israel, especially by the United States and Britain, but called for them to oppose the widely endorsed idea of an international conference after the war.

Washington, which has approved the idea of an interna-

tional conference sometime in the future, said last week it would work towards regional peace in cooperation with the Soviet Union, an advocate of a conference.

"Today it should be clear to everyone that ideas like an international conference, which is fervently supported by Saddam Hussein and Yasser Arafat, are not the means for advancing an arrangement but for imposing the will of the aggressor," Mr. Shamir said.

"Israel will have no part in such a conference and those peace-

seeking people looking out for our best interests would do a good thing if they removed this idea from the agenda," Mr. Shamir said.

The address was the first by Mr. Shamir to parliament since the start of the Gulf war Jan. 17. Although Israel is not a combatant, Iraq has fired 29 missiles at it, killing four people and wounding nearly 300.

Mr. Shamir repeated his intention to retaliate for the attacks,

(Continued on page 5)

## Arens meets Arabs, but no end to curfew

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens told Palestinian leaders Monday he was willing to take steps to ease the 19-day curfew in the occupied territories, but made no promises about ending it.

Mr. Arens' meeting was his first with Palestinians since the curfew was imposed at the start of the Gulf war. It is the longest curfew since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

The meeting came amid increasing calls for the government to lift the curfew, which has killed 1.7 million Palestinians their homes except for a few hours a week when they are allowed to shop.

Arab leaders say people are missing out of money because they cannot get to their jobs. Job shortages prompted the United Nations last week to launch an emergency distribution programme throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

On Monday, the European Community (EC) announced it

would provide \$32.7 million in food aid to Palestinians in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied territories (see page 2).

The army says the curfew is necessary to prevent Palestinians from disrupting Israeli "security" at a time the Jewish state faces missile attacks from Iraq.

Mr. Arens' meeting with Palestinian leaders was disclosed in a statement issued by the defence ministry. The statement quoted Mr. Arens as saying: "We are interested in taking steps to ease things for the population but on condition that the easing won't bring disturbances or terror actions."

Israel Radio said Mr. Arens suggested the army may drop the curfew during daylight in some towns and villages starting Tuesday. It was not clear if this would allow Palestinians to return to jobs outside the occupied territories.

The defence ministry did not reveal the names of Palestinians who met Arens. Several were Israel-appointed mayors or businessmen who admitted to

attending the session on condition their names were withheld. One Palestinian businessman said the talks focused on the economic problems caused by the curfew.

"We told him (Mr. Arens) that people are becoming desperate, that anger and frustration are increasing," said the businessman. "He gave no indication the curfew will end soon."

Some 110,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories work in Israel, while 130,000 have jobs in the occupied territories.

In the past week, Israel has issued permits to medical workers and some factory employees to return to their jobs in the occupied territories, but the majority of Palestinians remain confined to their homes.

In parliament on Monday, Shulamit Aloni of the leftist Citizens Rights Movement called for a debate on continuation of the curfew, saying it was creating "a situation of hunger" in the occupied territories and could lead to a backlash of violence.

## Winds push oil slick, Saudis on offensive

BAHRAIN (AP) — Winds sped up the southerly movement through the Gulf of the world's biggest oil slick Monday and fresh Kuwaiti oil was feeding it, environmental and salvage executives said.

Saudi Arabian officials said they were acquiring the latest chemicals produced in the United States to fight the slick and were setting out to combat it in on the open seas.

"We will not be a testing ground for new chemicals, but will use all good methods and we are getting a new powder that is made in the United States and already tested in Canada," said a Saudi official of the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA).

He would not give more details on the chemical which would supposedly quicken disintegration and evaporation of the slick.

Since the slick started forming about 10 days ago, the Saudis have concentrated mainly on building a strong defence line of booms around their vital coastal desalination, power plants and oil industries.

"To combat it in mid-sea is a very difficult task, and needs a multinational effort," said the MEPA official. "No state in the world can face a slick of such size alone... so far it (assistance) has been minor."

The Saudis have conferred with a U.S. team of coast guard personnel and top pollution experts on the best way to fight the slick. One American official, drawing an analogy with the preparations for the Gulf war, said that

they were now in the "Aug. 7" stage — that is when the buildup of forces for the military confrontation with Iraq began at the behest of President George Bush.

The spill started, according to U.S. military reports, when Iraq turned the taps of Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi oil terminal.

Some equipment has come and more is expected in the next few days from Japan, Germany, Britain, France, South Korea, Denmark and Sweden as well as the United States.

Norway's Marine Services company has supplied the skimming ship Al Waasit which has been mopping up the oil at the rate of 1,000 barrels a day.

But the Mina Al Ahmadi slick sped up as much as 11 million barrels, according to Saudi government estimates.

Additionally, smaller quantities have been flowing from the Getty Co.'s oil terminal off Khafji, possibly as a result of clashes between allied forces and Iraqis in the region.

The U.S. military has also confirmed that oil was flowing from the Iraq oil terminal at Mina Al Bakr at the head of the Gulf.

One of the salvage experts said Monday that "there is fresh Kuwaiti oil feeding the slick." He said it was not clear from where that oil was coming, but repeated that it was Kuwaiti rather than Iraqi crude.

Oil executives said they feared Iraq was dumping oil to create a slick in the adjacent Kuwait Bay as possible defence against an allied assault.

## 2 American servicemen wounded in Jeddah attack

RIYADH (Agencies) — Unidentified assailants attacked U.S. servicemen on a shuttle bus in the Saudi port city of Jeddah Sunday night in what U.S. military officials said could be the first guerrilla operation inside the kingdom since the Gulf war broke out.

Two Americans and a Saudi security guard were lightly wounded by flying glass when the gunmen fired through the windows of the bus, the officers told reporters Monday. Nine-millimetre cartridges were found near the scene.

A third American on the bus was not hit and the three wounded were released after treatment. The Americans all wore civilian clothes, the officers said.

The officers said the attacker or attackers, using a 9-mm pistol or rifle, escaped after the attack. Civilian support staff for the U.S.-led military campaign against Iraq are based in the city.

At the start of the war on Jan. 17 the Saudi Arabian authorities said they would impose the severest penalties on anyone threatening the country's security.

## Official assails U.S. advice to citizens to leave Jordan

By Jane Arat  
Reuters

AMMAN — A Jordanian official criticised the United States Monday for urging its citizens to leave the Kingdom because of Gulf war tensions.

Washington in a travel advisory issued on Sunday also ordered home more embassy personnel, leaving a skeleton staff to provide emergency service.

"I don't think there is anything to justify that move but it goes in harmony with the American mentality that is using arrogance and threats as a means to deal with people in this part of the world," a Jordanian official told Reuters.

The U.S. embassy, where staff are believed to have been cut to less than 20 from about 130, has taken security measures including removing diplomatic comber plates from cars to guard against possible attacks.

"There are certain days when I won't go around town if people are really upset," said blonde, blue-eyed Ann Sawalha, who like many of the 5,000 Americans left is married to a Jordanian.

She said she felt Americans who were planning to leave had already done so, most because there was no longer any work in Jordan. Between two and three thousand U.S. citizens are be-

lieved to have left the country.

"I don't have too much faith in the American government right now," Mrs. Sawalha said. "We are Americans after all and we love our country and we stand for American ideals but those ideals are being abused right now," she said, referring to the U.S.-led assault on Iraq.

"A lot of Americans who have been here for long periods of time couldn't bear to go back because they don't necessarily support their country's view," said a Western diplomat.

Following is the text of the U.S. travel advisory issued Sunday.

The outbreak of hostilities in the "Persian" Gulf region has increased tensions in the area and resulted in a heightened risk to Americans.

The Department of State advises all private U.S. citizens to defer all travel to Jordan. The Department of State has ordered the departure of all non-essential personnel and all dependents from Jordan and has substantially reduced its staff in Amman.

Embassy operations are sharply curtailed and normal consular operations suspended. The embassy will be able to provide services to U.S. citizens only in emergencies.

"American citizens residing in Jordan are advised to depart the country as soon as possible."

## Attention Members of the Press The Bani Hamida House

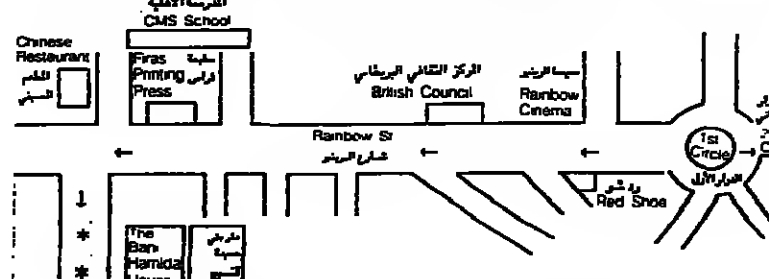
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# Religious organisation says situation in occupied lands is 'extremely serious'

By Mariam M. Shalhin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The situation in the West Bank and Gaza is "extremely dangerous" for the 1.8 million Palestinians living under virtual house arrest as imposed by the Israeli authorities, according to Mercy Corps International.

Mercy Corps, a religious organisation, has sent an "emergency message" to church offices and religious press as well as peace and human rights organisations across the globe informing them of the "crucial and abusive measures" being employed by the Israeli authorities and Jewish settlers in the occupied territories.

The Rev. Don Wagner, in a message dated Jan. 30, wrote: "Israeli authorities and extremist Jewish settlers appear to be using the security argument and re-direction of media and human rights attention on the Gulf to crush the civilian community, nationalist leadership and the intifada."

Father Wagner mentioned 10 points which he felt were grave violations of human rights not of individuals but of the entire community. He called the 22 to 24 hour curfew since Jan. 17 as "house arrest" of the entire population.

Health services have been denied to most of the population in both Nablus and the Gaza Strip, because people are forbidden to leave their homes even in medical emergencies, and nurses, doctors and other hospital staff are prevented from going to the hospitals, according to Father Wagner's memo.

The two-page memo also said that food shortages had been reported by the United Nations and at least two human rights organisations. Many stores are empty because there is no time to replenish supplies and there is no time to deliver supplies, the Mercy Corps memo said.

Punishments for those who violate the curfew range from fines of up to \$22,550 or imprisonment of up to five years if violators escape getting shot on the spot.

While most of the economy is in shambles farmers who are still the most productive part of the economy are prevented from caring for their livestock and farms.

The Israeli authorities have distributed gas masks to less than ten per cent of the population. The memo mentions that the use by the Israeli authorities of tear gas inside Palestinian homes has been reported. The memo notes that the use of tear gas in homes

and facilities is both illegal and lethal.

The memo calls on all "concerned organisations" to demand that the Israeli authorities lift the curfew throughout the occupied territories immediately, urge the United States to uphold its responsibility as a signatory of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians under military occupation.

The memo also urged that all American organisations stress to the American Congress that every dollar of U.S. foreign and economic aid to Israel must be "contingent upon strict adherence to human rights norms."

The memo warned of possible plans to carry out a mass eviction of Palestinians in the occupied territories by both Israeli officials and settlers in the West Bank.

While calling on all governments to uphold the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied territories the memo recommended that "religious, peace, academic, legal, NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and others should consider sending teams of skilled professional human rights workers who will serve as a monitoring and protective force to protect Palestinian human rights" in the occupied territories.

# No sign of any crack in Iraq's Republican Guard — U.S. officers

RIYADH (R) — Iraq's elite Republican Guard shows no sign of cracking, American commanders intend to keep bombing until it does.

"We are going to assure that they don't have that punch to hurt us," a U.S. military expert said Monday.

The Republican Guard, stationed along the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, has absorbed two weeks of American and allied air strikes including the huge bombloads of U.S. B-52s.

But soldiers spread across the desert and dug into the sand can survive bombing unless they are hit directly, American officers say they have little information yet on how badly the Republican Guardsmen have been hurt.

"Have any Republican Guards soldiers been taken prisoner?" American experts on the topic were asked on Monday. "Have

any been seen fleeing the bombing or shown any other sign of cracking?"

One of the officers replied only: "No."

U.S. officers said the Republican Guard had about 150,000 troops when the Gulf war started 2½ weeks ago — professional fighters who are better trained, better equipped and better paid than other Iraqi troops.

They have their own paratroopers, helicopters, artillery, tanks and other weapons to either defend or attack, the U.S. officers said.

The U.S. command says the best measure of damage to Iraqi ground forces is not the number of soldiers killed but the numbers of tanks and other weapons destroyed.

But that measure too does not yet show whether the allies are within reach of destroying the

Republican Guard's capability to fight a ground war.

U.S. experts say the Republican Guard is the force that went on the offensive in the last year of the 1980-88 war against Iran, after years of defensive fighting.

The Republican Guards are also the force that invaded Kuwait Aug. 2 and moved quickly to the Saudi-Kuwaiti border to counter any Saudi or Western response.

The Republican Guard has 87 brigades that can move swiftly to a crucial area in any of the seven fixed Iraqi army corps areas.

Republican Guardsmen were not blamed for any of the "atrocities" reported in Kuwait after the Aug. 2 Iraq invasion, the U.S. officers said.

"They're well trained professional soldiers," one of the U.S. officers said. "They're not fanatics."

# Somalia appeals for urgent aid

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Somalia's interim president has appealed for international aid to help rebuild a country shattered by years of fighting and economic mismanagement.

Ali Mahdi Mohammad, who became temporary head of state after Mohammed Siad Barre was deposed at the end of last month, issued his appeal at a swearing-in ceremony for members of a new cabinet.

"The president said there was a lack of food, medicines and services and appealed to the international community to provide the Somali people with foodstuffs, medicine, medical equipment, doctors, nurses and fuel," Radio Mogadishu said late Sunday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, also quoted Mohammed as saying security in the capital Mogadishu was improving daily.

More than four weeks of intense fighting between rebels of the United Somali Congress (USC) and government troops ended Mr. Siad Barre's 21 years of repressive rule, but left Mogadishu in ruins.

In London, a faction of the USC that opposed Mr. Mahdi Mohammad's appointment as too

hasty called for a council of state to run the country until a new government could be set up.

It said the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Movement — the two other main armed groups which opposed Mr. Siad Barre — would be included.

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad has called a meeting for Feb. 23 of all armed and non-armed opposition groups, both inside and outside Somalia, to decide upon the country's future form of government.

The 10-man cabinet named Saturday contained no ministers from recent Siad Barre administration.

Mr. Siad Barre's whereabouts are unknown.

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad has promised that members of international relief agencies would be protected as soon as they entered the country.

USC rebels said there had been 1,000 people killed in their months-long war to oust Mr. Siad Barre.

The capital was littered with dead and wounded after Siad Barre fled and gunmen roamed the streets, prompting many re-

lief workers to leave.

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad said there was a lack of food, medicines and services, and appealed to the international community to help.

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad, a 52-year-old hotelier and businessman, has promised fair, democratic elections "as soon as possible" but a timetable was not clear.

No further details were available on the number and names of the ministers who were sworn in Sunday.

Mr. Mahdi Mohammad, who was instrumental in organising opposition to Mr. Siad Barre's rule, was selected as interim president by the USC's 12-member executive committee — a council of clan elders — and was sworn in last Tuesday.

He reportedly appointed the prime minister of the ousted government, Umar Arteh Ghalib, as his own interim premier and gave him the task of forming the new government.

Mr. Siad Barre had ruled this Horn of Africa nation for 22 years. Various opposition groups, Western governments and human rights organisations had accused him of atrocities.



PROTESTS: Students, burn the American and Israeli flags at a protest held in Amman Monday against the allied forces' war against Iraq (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

# European Community gives new assistance to Palestinians

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) Commission said Monday it approved new food aid for Palestinians if refugee camps and the occupied territories to counter the effects of the Gulf war and an Israeli curfew.

The 12-nation trade bloc will send 23.7 million European currency units, (\$32.7 million) in food aid and is set to announce an additional 6 to 8 million ECUS (\$8.3 to \$11 million) in the coming days, an EC official said.

"There is an additional necessity caused by the Gulf crisis," the official said.

The EC earmarked 20 million ECUS (\$27.6 million) for sugar, milk, cereals and vegetables to be distributed to Palestinians in refugee camps in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon as well as for the people living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The commission will send an additional 3.7 million ECUS (\$5.1 million) as exceptional food aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the authorities have imposed a curfew on the 1.7 million Palestinians since Jan. 17, when the Gulf war began.

The restrictions are lifted in most areas at least several times a week so Palestinians can replenish food supplies. But many say they are short of money because they are prevented from reporting for jobs in Israel.

Israel has said the measures are to prevent violent outbreaks, in the wake of threats by Palestinian leaders to open a second front to assist the Iraqi war effort.

The proposed 6 to 8 million ECUS would be targeted for the occupied territories only.

Last December, the EC approved 4.5 million ECUS (\$6.2 million) to finance Palestinian hospitals in the occupied territories for six months. The hospitals had a lack of cash since many traditional sponsor nations were affected by the Gulf crisis.

# Ghozali says thousands of Iraqi civilians killed

PARIS (AP) — Thousands of Iraqi civilians have been killed in the relentless bombing of Iraq since the Gulf war began last month, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said Sunday.

Mr. Ghozali, who just completed a visit to Iran, also said Iranian officials told him more than 100 Iraqi aircraft have sought refuge in Iran.

Mr. Ghozali acknowledged that thousands killed is far more than the number of civilians Iraq has said have died in the bombing raids that began Jan. 17.

"It is normal that the protagonists put out information that conforms most to their particular interests," Mr. Ghozali said on the radio network RTL.

"But go ask Iranians who have daily direct contact with the Iraqis," he said. "There have been thousands of civilian deaths."

As of Sunday, Iraqi authorities had announced only 320 civilians killed and 100 wounded in the war. But the actual number is thought to be much higher.

The Algerian foreign minister also said more than 100 Iraqi planes have flown to Iran and are being provided refuge.

"They began by sending civilian airliners, I believe in coordination with the Iranians, and then they sent military aircraft, without consulting the Iranians in

# Soviet communists express 'deep concern' about Gulf

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party leadership Sunday expressed its "deep concern over the dangerous developments" in the Gulf war, citing the continued bloodshed and damage to the environment.

While it did not signify a retreat from the support that the Soviet Union has given to the United States against Iraq, the party stressed the need for a political solution.

The statement, drafted by the Communist Party's Central Committee following a one-day meeting last week, said:

"Expressing deep concern for the dangerous development of events in the 'Persian' Gulf, the plenum calls upon the state leadership of the country to undertake the necessary additional steps before the international community and the United Nations to end the bloodshed, to preclude irretrievable damage to the environment and direct the military conflict into the channel of a political solution in the spirit of the U.N. Security Council resolutions."

On Thursday, Communist Party officials warned U.S. forces not to go beyond the U.N. mandate to liberate Kuwait, reflecting concern among Soviet traditionalists that the United States seeks dominance in the Middle East.

They fear that U.S.-led forces planned to destroy Iraq, rather than just drive it from Kuwait. Iraq was a long-time ally of the Soviet Union, prior to Baghdad's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"We call upon the leadership of the United States to take more necessary measures so that they serve the cessation of the bloodshed, and serve the ceasefire," said Alexander Dzasokhov, the party's ideology chief.

His statements echoed a joint U.S.-Soviet communique issued this week urging Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait in return for a ceasefire.

# MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**UNRWA distributes gas masks**

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A United Nations agency has begun distributing gas masks donated by the Canadian government to relief workers living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Canadian-made masks, which were delivered last weekend by Canadian military cargo planes, were requested by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and other non-profit groups that assist the Palestinians living in the occupied territories.

Agency spokesman Maher Nasser said the masks from Canada and other countries will be distributed mainly to the U.N. agency's 7,200 workers in the West Bank and Gaza and to other relief workers. An official with the Canadian embassy in Tel Aviv said the adult-size masks were from a stock of 20,000 kept in Canada for civil defence purposes.

**Europarlamentarians skip Manila**

MANILA (AP) — An eight-member European Parliament delegation touring Asia skipped Manila because of fears of attacks, officials said Monday. The delegation from the European People's Party led by Ria Oomen-Ruijten of the Netherlands, was scheduled to arrive in Manila Sunday for a three-day visit that was to include talks with President Corason Aquino. Andy Del Rosario, information officer of the Philippine embassy in Brussels, said the delegation decided to cancel the Manila stop at the last minute on the advice of the Hong Kong branch of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, which sponsored the trip. The foundation is a research arm of Germany's Christian Democratic Party. Del Rosario said the foundation cited "security considerations" for cancelling the trip, citing a failed bombing attempt against a U.S. government cultural centre on Jan. 19.

**Commission subpoenas Pan Am**

NEW YORK (AP) — The city human rights commission has subpoenaed the president of Pan American World Airways over the airline's policy of barring Iraqis from flights, a commission spokesman said Sunday. Commission spokesman Louie Soury said the panel "requested and received a copy of the procedure which we feel is in possible violation of New York civil rights laws." The law prohibits discrimination against people based on their citizenship and national origin, he said. "Our concern is that people may be discriminated against based on how they look, especially people who are perceived to be Arab," Mr. Soury said. The policy could screen out "not only Iraqi nationals but recent immigrants who are living here, many of whom are trying to escape Saddam Hussein," he said. Mr. Soury said a copy of the written policy he received from Pan Am states: "In its continuing review of security procedures implemented as a result of the Gulf war, Pan Am has decided to decline acceptance of passengers carrying passports issued by Iraq. This decision was made as a result of the conflict between the U.S. and Iraq and in particular, in response to Iraqi threats to engage in terrorism worldwide."

**Kuwaiti office issues forms for post-war 'visas'**

CAIRO (AP) — Kuwait's exiled government is distributing to journalists application forms for visas to be used if a U.S.-led international coalition drives Iraq's army from that country. "You will be contacted when visas are ready to be issued," said an instruction sheet accompanying the applications. Written in English and Arabic at the top of the English-language form is "Government of Kuwait, Ministry of Information, Taseef." Kuwait's government has been based in Taif, Saudi Arabia, since shortly after Iraq took over the emirate last Aug. 2. A spokesman for the Kuwaiti information centre said his office and the exiled government's representatives in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, were distributing the forms. Hundreds of foreign reporters use Dhahran as a base for covering the war. "All I've heard since I've been here is people asking when they can get their visas to go in after the liberation," said the spokesman. "We will be ready with a media-interest list when it comes." He acknowledged there is no indication when that might be.

**Sudan sends medical team to Iraq**

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan was sending a 13-person medical team along with drugs and surgical equipment to Iraq Monday to help treat Gulf war casualties, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said. It said the team, including surgeons and nurses, "would treat brother Iraqis wounded in the American-Zionist raids." SUNA quoted an unnamed source in the Health Ministry as saying the medical aid confirmed Sudan's support for Iraq in the war. It added that hundreds of people in the medical field in the Sudan have registered to serve as volunteers in Iraq. Sudan's military government says it wants Iraq out of Kuwait but condemns the allied air onslaught and the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf region.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<b>PRAYER TIMES</b>		Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
05:04	Fajr	St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
06:23	(Sunrise) Duha	Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.	
17:50	Asr	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.	
18:25	Maghreb	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.	
<b>CHURCHES</b>		<b>WEATHER</b>	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swarththel Tel. 810740.		Bullshit supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 682785, 685326.		It will be partly cloudy and there will be a rise in temperatures.	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.		Min./max. temp.	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440.		Amman 0 / 8	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757		Aqaba -2 / 13	
Terrace Church Tel. 622366		Jordan Valley 5 / 18	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.		Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 7, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings:	
Anglican Church Tel. 625283, Tel. 628543.			
Assumption Catholic Church Tel. 771331.			
		<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
		AMMAN: 95 per cent, Aqaba 33 per cent.	
		<b>NIGHT DUTY</b>	
		AMMAN: Dr. Asim Abdul Jabbar 694222	
		Dr. Saleh Zayed 790677	
		Dr. Fakhri Radi 885880	
		Dr. Zaki Zaghlool 638991	
		First pharmacy 641912	
		Ferdous pharmacy 778336	
		Al Asma pharmacy 637035	
		Mazrouk pharmacy 625672	
		Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
		<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	
		Food Control Centre 637111	
		Civil Defence Department 661111	
		Civil Defence Immediate 625672	
		Rescue 630441	
		<b>HOSPITALS</b>	
		AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2	
		Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816	
		Aklid Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2	
		Jabal Amman Maternity 642362	
		Mallat, J. Amman 636140	
		<b>MARKET PRICES</b>	
		Uppercase price in \$/kg.	
		Apple 550 / 480	
		Banana 300 / 450	
		Beans (Mushroom) 450 / 400	
		Beans 300 / 400	
		Cabbage 100 / 50	
		Carrot 200 / 150	
		Cauliflower 300 / 250	
		Corn 200 / 150	
		Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100	
		Cucumbers (small) 300 / 250	
		Dates 200 / 150	
		Eggplant 200 / 150	
		Garlic 1600 / 1400	
		Lemon 240 / 180	
		Marrow (large) 140 / 100	
		Marrow (small) 320 / 240	
		Onion (dry) 270 / 220	
		Onion (green) 180 / 120	
		Okra 480 / 300	
		Orange 240 / 200	
		Pepper (hot) 340 / 300	
		Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150	
		Potato 230 / 200	
		Radish 100 / 50	
		Sage 400 / 300	
		Spinach 140 / 100	
		Tomatoes 190 / 120	



## Iraq will 'fight to the bitter end' — Prince Hassan

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday that the United States had left Iraq President Saddam Hussein no option but to "fight to the bitter end" and predicted the Iraqi leader would choose martyrdom over surrender, the Associated Press reported Monday.

Crown Prince Hassan, a guest on the CBS news show "Face the Nation," also predicted it would take generations to erase Muslim ill-will against the United States and its allies in the war.

The Crown Prince, interviewed from Amman said Iraq would never surrender.

"When the United States says no face-saving, no linkage, no negotiations, and then unleashes

this tremendous force of destruction, capitulation is simply not the Iraqi style, nor is it the Iraqi leadership style," said the Crown Prince.

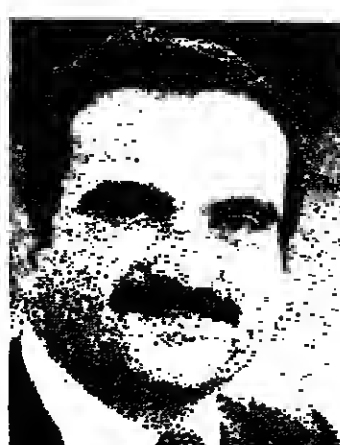
"I think it's very, very clear that there is no option other than to fight to the bitter end, and we are talking about martyrdom."

Prince Hassan said that view might be "irrational in the West."

"But, effectively, if you're going down in history as a martyr... you are at the end of the day, in the eyes of history, a winner and not a loser," he said.

Prince Hassan also said the United States has miscalculated the intensity of Muslim anger over the war with Iraq.

"This is fratricide, and no Arab, effectively, is going to sit



by and say he takes pleasure in seeing Saudis killing Iraqis or Iraqis killing Qataris," he said. "I

think that there is increasing unrest in the Arab and Muslim streets from Morocco to Indonesia."

By buying Iraqi oil and sending food to Iraq Crown Prince Hassan said Jordan was forced to turn to Iraq for oil after Saudi Arabia closed its border with Jordan.

"This is not a violation of sanctions. We are not selling that oil on the high seas, and it only covers barely two-thirds of our national requirements."

"We have made it clear that the borders of Iraq are open to Turkey, Iran and Syria and certainly we have not seen the kind of scrutiny that we have had here with the Security Council sanctions committee team that visited Jordan and gave an extremely

positive assessment of the picture," Prince Hassan said.

He asserted that the food shipments were a humanitarian gesture and did not violate Jordan's neutrality.

Asked why Jordan had not criticised Iraq's using Jordanian airspace to send Scud missiles into Israel, the Crown Prince said Jordan had "made it very clear that the loss of civilian life anywhere is appalling and to be deplored."

"But, at the same time, I'd like to make it also clear that we are in a position to do very little about missiles crossing airspace, but this does not mean that we are in some way to be pulled into a war that we have opposed from the outset," he said.

## Gulf war disrupts mail delivery

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mail has been severely affected since the Gulf war erupted, causing frustration for many people. As businesses especially are beginning to feel the pinch, the concerned authorities have been working out alternative plans for mail to and from Europe and America and in particular to and from the Gulf countries.

A Jordanian who has relatives in Vienna, Austria told the Jordan Times that his sister tried to post a letter to Jordan but the authorities there would not accept any mail destined for the kingdom.

According to the head of the cargo section at Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), Zeid Lambaz, "RJ flights now stop at Cairo, Larnaca and Vienna and from there they go to other destinations in Europe and the Far East, carrying mail to these locations."

While incoming mail from Europe and N. America is

taking as long as one month to reach Jordan, postal services to and from the Gulf have almost come to a halt. The Post and Postal Savings Corporation (PPSC) proposed that since air links between Jordan and the Gulf were cut, mail should be forwarded overland. According to a Jordanian-Saudi arrangement, "this would mean that the two countries would exchange mail at the Jordan-Saudi border," Dr. Abdullah Al Jazi, director general of the PPSC told the Jordan Times.

Regarding the rest of the Gulf countries — except for Oman (to which RJ is resuming flights) — Al Jazi said, "we are keeping all the letters and waiting for a response from them."

"A trial RJ flight to Oman has recently been arranged," according to Faraj Bassil, country general manager at

Sky Pack courier service. This will help the postal service "because from Oman there are daily flights to Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other places in the Gulf region." But Bassil cautioned that since this was a trial flight "we do not know how long this route will last."

Businessmen already feel the effect of this mail delay. "We are not receiving mail as regularly as before and the post office is not getting much mail out. This means we depend on faxes, telexes and telephones which are very expensive."

Wafa, a mother of four children said "maybe a company can handle the expenses, but we cannot always resort to telephones. We depend on mail and now we are left without any news from relatives abroad."

Lambaz revealed that while RJ flew out 100 tonnes of mailbags in February 1990, now that has been reduced to 30 tonnes only.

"Despite RJ's lifting of mail, the amount is in fact very little because of the reduced number of flights, especially Middle East air traffic."

Skypack, a rapid 24 hour courier service, is facing delays up to four days with delivery especially to Gulf states, Bassil said.

"We are suffering a great deal with the increase in cost of freight shipment also, because war insurance is not paid by our clients," He added that "we are doing our best using the routes and time that RJ is offering. We are also cooperating through our Larnaca, Cairo, Rome and Vienna offices."

Al Jazi says the PPSC has adopted several alternative procedures. In case flights for Egypt are interrupted, it was agreed with Egyptian authorities to exchange mail at the Aqaba and Yenbuh seaports, he said.

As for worldwide mail distribution, "arrangements were made with RJ to carry mail-

bags to its destinations and then forward them with other airlines," Al Jazi said.

Concerning incoming mail, the PPSC has issued a circular (through the Universal Postal Union bureau in Bern, Switzerland) to around 170 world postal administrations, requesting them to send mail addressed to Jordan to capitals where RJ is operating.

Forwarding of parcels and packages has been most affected by irregular flights. According to officials at the central post office, "we do not recommend that anyone send parcels abroad." They said it may take as long as one and a half to two months for a parcel to reach its destination. A senior official at the central post office maintained "RJ takes a few of the parcels but the bulk is piling up here."

Lambaz, however, reasoned that because of RJ flying only three Boeing 777s and one Boeing 707, "space is limited because the flights are crowded with passengers."

## King visits army HQ

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Monday visited the army headquarters and met with army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh and senior officials. Part of the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Ahmad Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyeh.

The audience were briefed on the activities and preparations of the People's Army and the duties it will be given.

Chief of the Royal Court Sheriff Zaid Ben Shaker accompanied the King on the meetings.

After the briefing, the King visited the Al Hussein Medical City to inquire about the injured in the U.S. and allied bombing on Jordanian vehicles along the Amman-Baghdad highway.

Coinciding with the King's visit to the injured, the Public Security Department (PSD) issued a statement commending the arrival of the body of another victim killed in the raids. He is Yusuf Ahmad Qasbi

whose body was transferred to Jordan with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The announcement quoted an ICRC report as saying that the following Jordanians were injured in the raids along the Amman-Baghdad road: Abdullah Yusuf Al Haj from Umm Qals, Muhammad Saleh Ghazzawi from North Shmeik, Dalhoun Salehman Zibeldi from the Jordan Valley and Salehman Sahi Muhammad from Na'vash.

## Only 'odd' cars run today

## Decision to restrict cars, save energy goes into effect

AMMAN (J.T.) — Thursday's government decision to restrict the use of private cars in Amman is to go into effect Tuesday as was earlier announced by an official communiqué, and violators will risk having their cars impounded, according to an announcement Monday by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Jamal Sarairoh.

Sarairoh repeated the government order which allows motorists to use their cars on alternate days only. Cars with plates ending with odd numbers will run on odd days and those with even numbers on even days of the month. The order said that the use of government vehicles would be cut by half and that heating of government buildings would be reduced by 25 per cent.

Sarairoh said that the new measure was applicable to all Jordanian private cars with white, and yellow licence plates, and cars with non-Jordanian plates.

The minister noted that violators of the order will risk having their cars impounded, while owners of cars with fake plates will risk having their vehicles confiscated. To make things easier, Sarairoh said the ministry has

hired 50 buses owned by the Jordan Express Transport and Tourist Company (JETT) to boost the capacity of the 300 buses owned and operated by the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) which in turn will carry out an emergency programme to increase its operations and meet additional transportation needs.

The minister appealed to the members of the public to go to work earlier than usual to help the PTC ensure sufficient means to carry them there and back home; he also urged the people to cooperate by carrying other people in their private cars.

PTC Director General Sulaiman Al Hababeh said in a statement Monday that the corporation will exert all possible efforts to provide transportation services to the public under the present circumstances.

Hababeh urged passengers using public transport to submit recommendations and remarks to the PTC management in the first days of the enforcement of the regulations so that amendments to its PTC emergency programme on various routes could be introduced to cater to the needs of the public.

He said that the first week of the experiment would be subject to observation to determine which areas need more buses than others so that adjustments could be made.

He said that buses from JETT and from Royal Jordanian (RJ) will also be commandeered to facilitate the transportation plans. According to Hababeh, PTC representatives will be stationed at various locations to facilitate the transportation process and to receive remarks from the public and study them before reporting to the management.

Jordan has been receiving all its crude oil from Iraq since September when Saudi Arabia cut off supplies to the Kingdom.

The government decision followed U.S. allied air raids in recent days on the international highway, linking Iraq with Jordan, which so far killed five people, injured many others and destroyed a number of oil tanker trucks.

Economists, however, say as little as one tenth of the 60,000 barrels of Iraqi crude oil a day usually brought by these trucks are now reaching Amman as a result of the bombing raids.

## More Palestinians leave occupied territories than Israel allows in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel's restrictions on Palestinians crossing into the occupied territories from Jordan via the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges have been increased lately, depriving many of the right to return to their homeland, according to Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's department of Palestinian affairs.

Qatanani told the Jordan Times that between Jan. 21 and 31 a total of 438 people were admitted across the King Hussein bridge and 350 across the Prince Mohammad bridge, while in the same period the Israelis allowed 650 to leave the Palestinian territories across the King Hussein bridge and 699 across the Prince Mohammad bridge.

It is clear that the number of those leaving the occupied territories have been almost double those entering, Qatanani noted. Furthermore, many of the Palestinians with special permits

and recognised by the occupation forces as inhabitants of the occupied territories have been turned back several times, and their permits have now expired rendering it impossible for them to ever return to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Qatanani added.

He said the Israeli measures are tantamount to mass deportation of the Palestinian people. We have daily instances of people turned back, and we received many complaints from the public, while we maintain intensive contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other U.N. agencies to restore normal procedures across the bridges, Qatanani said. But, he added: "We have received no favourable reply from the other side."

Reuters news agency Monday quoted Interior Ministry Secretary General Salameh Hammad as saying that the Israelis on Monday allowed only seven people to

cross the King Hussein bridge and turned back 57 others.

He said 27 people, most of them elderly men and women, were allowed to cross the Prince Mohammad bridge, but 30 others were barred entry.

Qatanani confirmed the figures, and said his department receives daily bulletins from the bridges about the situation there.

Before the Gulf war began on Jan. 17, an average of about 200 people a day were allowed across the King Hussein bridge and 1,200 on the Damieh bridge, but over the past two weeks the Israeli authorities were allowing only 50 people to cross at each bridge for what they have been claiming as part of the security measure in the occupied territories which have been subjected to a blanket curfew, now in its 18th day.

According to Qatanani, most of those returning to Palestine came from Kuwait and the Gulf.

## People could grow vegetables, raise sheep at homes

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Agricultural Engineers Monday voiced their absolute support for a decision by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment to allow people to grow their own food and raise animals near their homes and said that the decision was a step in the right direction.

Minister of Municipal Affairs Mohammad Zaben had stated that his ministry was putting the finishing touches on a law allowing people living within the municipal boundaries in the rural districts of Jordan especially in villages, to breed sheep and goats and set up poultry farms next to their homes with the purpose of helping the country to attain self-sufficiency. To date such practice was prohibited by law, but the minister said in his statement to Al Ra'i published Monday that this is being allowed in view of the current circumstances Jordan is facing.

But according to the minister, those wishing to benefit from the

new law should abide by the hygienic regulations, dispose safely of waste and cooperate with local councils in conducting this business.

Jordanian Agricultural Engineers Association President Ghaleb Abu Arrabi said that the new practice would help Jordan boost its food production and attain self-sufficiency. The circumstances facing Jordan at present prompt its people to come up with new ideas to curb their imports of foods and rely on their own resources, Abu Arrabi added in a statement to Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times Monday.

Abu Arrabi urged all people to intensify the process of planting fruit trees and vegetables in their backyards, a practice that had been followed wisely by their grandparents.

Bombing Jordanian trucks on their way to Jordan, harassing cargo vessels heading for Aqaba are symptoms of the increased pressure being imposed on Jordan which ought to do what it can to overcome the consequences of the embargo, Abu Arrabi said.

## Jerusalem committee cables de Cuellar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Popular Committee for the Defence of Jerusalem Monday urged U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the injustice being imposed on the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupation authorities.

In a cable to de Cuellar, the committee referred to the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the continued curfews. "The world community as represented by the United Nations is expected to uphold its responsibilities with regard to the blatant Israeli inhuman policies which is openly using the existing crisis in the region to starve the Palestinians into submission," the committee said.

"It is our view that the continued failure of the United Nations to take the necessary measures to redress this appalling situation and to extend immediate necessary assistance and protection to the Palestinian people would, otherwise, lead to more sufferings and instability in the region, and would seriously contribute to damaging, still further, the credibility of the U.N. in the area," the cable said.

The committee also sent a cable to the ambassador of the German Federal Republic in Am-

man urging the German government to reconsider its present policies in favour of Israel and to help maintain a friendly relationship with the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinians in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, have been subjected to continuous curfew since Jan. 17, 1991 which has resulted in severe food shortages, human sufferings for old people, women and children, who, due to such curfew, have been denied access to food, medical aid and medicine," the cable said.

The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has chosen to ignore this situation, and to embark on a policy of appeasing the Israeli government by sending, in addition to military hardware, massive food, medical, logistic and cash aid to Israel. This act is viewed, by the Palestinians, as a condonation of the Israeli inhuman practices in the occupied territories, since no effort was made by the German government to redress the sufferings of the Palestinians. Moreover, the German government did not attempt to provide the Palestinians under occupation with similar aid to that volunteered to the Israelis," the committee said.

## Evacuees trickle, describe road from Baghdad as 'death trap'

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The arrival of Asian refugees from across the border remained at a bare minimum for the second day running Monday as the main road between Baghdad and the border was described as a death trap in view of the renewed air bombardment by allied forces waging war on Iraq.

Less than 400 people, including a few Jordanians, had crossed the Al Ruweished border as the day drew to a close, and border officials said many of them reported running a "gauntlet" from the Iraqi capital to the frontier as jetfighters and bombers flew repeated sorties.

Among the arrivals were about 100 Indian construction workers from Basra, Iraq's southernmost city, who reported total devastation of shopping areas, residential districts and government buildings alike.

According to an Indian refugee who arrived Sunday, the bombings were "totally indiscriminate."

"They are hitting everywhere," he said. "Even mosques with their distinct minarets and schools are pulverised."

Most of the arrivals said they drove at night from Baghdad without switching on the main lights of their vehicles in a bid to escape the attention of planes.

Some travellers also reported low-flying aircraft attacking with machineguns.

Security sources said a body of a non-Jordanian killed in one of the attacks was brought into Jordan Monday, but there was no immediate means to establish the identity of the deceased.

Diplomatic sources said they were not aware that the body could be that of an Asian who was killed when the truck he was driving was bombed last week.

Meanwhile, about 3,150 evacuees, including about 420 seeking political asylum in a third country, remained in Jordan awaiting flights out arranged by the International Organisation of Migration (IOM). The figures included about 400, who were scheduled to be flown home Monday.

Among the remaining were 1,246 Sudanese, 685 Egyptians, 45 Moroccan and 30 Philippine nationals as well as 233 of various other nationalities in addition to 395 Somalis and a group of Iranians. The Somalis and Iranians are seeking help from the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for political asylum, and most of the Somalis are expected to leave for home soon in view of the toppling of the regime of Mohammed Siad Barre whom they opposed.

IOM figures showed that 11,762 people — mostly Asians and Arab Africans — have been repatriated through the organisation between Jan. 18 and Feb. 3.

With the departure late Sunday of an Aeroflot chartered flight carrying about 300 Indians to Bombay, the number of Asians shrunk to six — three Sri Lankans and three Pakistanis. It was not immediately known why the six did not leave on the Aeroflot flight to Bombay, from where they could have taken homeward flights on regular airlines.

According to an official statement from the department of borders of the Public Security Directorate, a total of 1,175 people — 705 of them Jordanian, 892 other Arab nationals and 118 non-Arabs arrived through the border post at Al Ruweished Sunday.

The statement said 125 travellers — 101 Jordanians, 23 Arabs and one non-Arab left for Iraq through Al Ruweished on the same day.

## Srouf visits Karak, Tafileh

KARAK (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saad Hayel Srouf Monday inspected water resources in Karak and Tafileh governorates where he was briefed on the water situation in the two governorates.

Srouf said in a meeting with directors of the water departments that rains in the past few days replenished Jordan's water reserves in dams and underground wells and helped the Kingdom overcome its water crisis.

He said the ministry's departments are currently working on replacing old water pipes networks with new ones and are

doing their best to provide citizens with water.

The minister asked the water departments in the governorates to cooperate with the different official institutions in order to get the best possible results in their work.

The ministry, he said, is now studying the issues of building earth dams in the eastern parts of the Kingdom.

"The ministry will form a specialised team to conduct studies on the best locations to establish earth dams in eastern parts of the country within the framework of the ministry's five-year plan,"

Srouf said.

Karak Governor Eid Al Qataneh, who attended the meeting, reviewed the water situation in the governorate and its needs of water in the future.

After the meeting, Srouf visited Tafileh where he held a meeting with Tafileh Governor Khalid Bawaliz and heads of the water departments there.

Bawaliz reviewed the water situation in Tafileh governorate and the citizens' needs of water.

He also briefed the minister on projects carried out by the governorate's committee entrusted with solving the problems of drought.

support of Iraq, to his policy of neutrality in the 19-day-old conflict.

Asked about details of Iran's peace initiative, Mr. Rafsanjani said: "We are now negotiating with the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, Persian Gulf littoral states, Pakistan, Turkey, the United Nations, France, the Soviet Union and Algeria."

"If Saddam Hussein accepts our idea, I think it will be acceptable to others. Of course I do not know if it will be accepted by the Americans..."

## Rafsanjani

(Continued from page 1)

asked about Mr. Rafsanjani's comments. "Nobody has said anything to us directly."

Mr. Rafsanjani said he had told Mr. Hammadi the only solution in the war was "an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region."

"Our purpose is to get Iraq out of Kuwait and we've gone through 12 U.N. resolutions and

we're engaged in a military conflict to do that," Mr. Fitzwater said.

Iran became fiercely anti-American when a 1979 Islamic Revolution overthrew the U.S.-backed monarchy.

Mr. Rafsanjani's offer to meet President Saddam and to talk to the Americans was an indication of his enhanced grip on all factions within Tehran's clerical leadership.

He has managed to win all groups, including Islamic radicals who initially called for holy war in

## King telephones Yemeni president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday made a telephone call with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and exchanged with him views on the general situation in the region.

## Kilani receives Tunisian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani received in his office Monday the Tunisian ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Mongi. Kilani and Mongi discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Tunisia and ways to enhance them.

## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.  
Established 1975  
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Editor-in-Chief:  
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4  
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
Facsimile: 661242

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## Odd #s and deeds

MUCH CAN be said about Prime Minister Mudar Badran's determination to carry out his cabinet's decision to restrict the use of private cars in order to save energy. Despite public pleas to the government to reconsider its decision, the prime minister went ahead and as of today restricted private cars with license plates ending with even numbers to drive on even days and those with odd ones on odd days. Mr. Badran insisted Monday that this measure was the most viable proposal to save energy during these difficult times. He did also despite the fact that the prime minister himself admitted yesterday that not only was parliament divided on the issue, but his cabinet as well.

No one disagrees that Jordanians have a responsibility to save energy at these difficult times. Mr. Badran urged Jordanians yesterday to abandon luxurious lifestyles during such circumstances. But, on this one, Mr. Badran's government ought probably to think beyond those living in Abdoun — people who own a number of cars and can afford to use different ones on different days. The government is expected not only to think of but also defend the majority of the population who could all too easily include an average family of eight owning a single car. The decision therefore can paralyse the movement of these people, and they could be many, considering that they might not afford taking taxis everywhere, or walking for kilometres before reaching a public transport terminal.

In his statement yesterday, the prime minister said that the people must cooperate among themselves to deal with such restrictions and that it was not always the government's responsibility to do so. One wonders whether it is not the government's responsibility to introduce new measures to the people only after thorough study of the issue at stake and its consequences? Mr. Badran said that the new measures were temporary, sounding just like the two-day weekend decision, which was retracted shortly after people became used to it. Such decisions are not to be fiddled with: imposed one day and abandoned the next.

Mr. Badran used the Iraqi people's steadfastness when they are being bombed by the U.S.-allied forces as an example to emulate. He was right. The Iraqi people are sacrificing a great deal to resist the war waged on them. They set a perfect model for all Arabs to follow. But the Iraqi people have no choice but to take water out from their rivers and boil it for drinking. We, however, have some choices and alternatives to saving gasoline. The government has a responsibility to the people greater than that of taking decisions and asking the public to follow. The government should have studied the matter more carefully and considered all its implications as well as other alternatives.

As it did with milk, sugar and rice six months ago, the government could have introduced coupons for distributing petrol. It could have ordered gas stations to open for only a few hours everyday. Or it could have organised a car pool system in neighbourhoods whereby residents could meet in offices set up by the government to see where the people's workplaces or schools are and arrange to travel together alternately in one car. The government probably should have given more thought to these alternatives than just decide and then ask the people to knock on their neighbours' doors for help.

Jordanians are all ready and more than willing to shoulder their responsibilities to keep their country on its feet and to keep their heads held high without bowing to any foreign pressure. But this is a collective responsibility. Governments, every one agrees, are the managers of their countries and their peoples' public affairs. And managers are expected to come up with... and, well prepared and well thought of decisions for the good of their citizens.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday launches a bitter criticism of Arab heads of state who are gloating over the massacres being committed by the allied forces against the Iraqi people. The paper said that as the U.S.-led allies continue to raid areas heavily populated with Iraqi civilians, killing innocent people and destroying the Iraqi cultural, economic and social centres, there are a number of Arab leaders who are investigating Washington and its allies to pursue the process of destruction. These leaders are horrified by the idea that Iraq might come out victorious from this conflict, and they are also afraid of their own people who are bound to topple them at any moment, the paper noted. It said the only hope for these puppets who betrayed their nation is to continue their efforts to see Iraq destroyed and its people massacred. But these leaders are wrong to believe that Iraq will be overwhelmed, and are wrong to believe that their own people will remain passive after watching their brothers and sisters in Iraq being massacred, the paper continued. Baghdad, the paper said, has sufficient power to abort the American forces aims and objectives; and with its continued steadfastness, this Arab capital has helped the good Arabs to open their eyes well and recognise those who have betrayed their nation and sold their honour and the honour of their countries by accepting bribes to side with the enemies of the Arab and Islamic Nation.

As the eyes of the world are focused on the events in the Gulf, Israel tightens its hold over the occupied Arab territories by maintaining a constant curfew on the one and a half million Palestinians, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Monday. The Israelis have subjected the oppressed people of Palestine to 18 days of curfew so far, depriving them of earning their livelihood and denying them the right to conduct their normal business in the rural and urban regions, the paper said. Of course these measures are part of Israel's endeavours to stifle the Arabs economically, politically and socially with the aim of aborting their uprising which is now in its fourth year, the paper noted. It said that the Zionist leaders do not want the Palestinians to witness the great horror gripping the Israeli society as a result of the Iraqi rocket attacks.

## 'Force is sterile'

By Khalil Barhoum

RAPIDLY changing global politics has left the Bush administration grasping for a clear and persuasive case against Iraq.

President Bush has invoked his "new world order" as justification for America's military intervention in the Gulf. But what is this new world order anyway, and what implications does it bring to Third World nations, and to the Arab World in particular?

From all indications, the term aptly describes a unipolar world in which the political will of the United States, supported by military power, can no longer be challenged with impunity by smaller nations. In the context of the U.S.-Iraq confrontation, the new world order is viewed by many Arabs as heralding the recolonisation of Arab land (through American military presence) and American monopolisation of Arab oil resources.

Underlying the American move is an overriding concern for the preservation of the status quo in the Arab World, with all its socio-economic and political inequities.

Arabs widely believe that the speed and resolve with which the United States moved against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was meant to thwart any attempt at an Arab solution for the conflict. Such a solution would no doubt have led to the political weakening of the rich Gulf mini-states

so be it, since appealing to the West's sense of morality (partition — indeed, to the delight of millions of Arabs who view these states as simply too decadent and beholden to the West.

The transformation of these states is regarded by most Arab nationalists to be a sine qua non for launching a new order committed to an equitable distribution of wealth across the geopolitical divides of the Arab World. U.S. military intervention on behalf of the "rich Arab order" has rekindled Arab nationalism and fuelled pan-Arab aspirations (which have reached intensity levels not witnessed since the Franco-Anglo-Israeli challenge to Egypt's Nasser in 1956).

The present conflict has squarely placed the West, especially the United States, on the side of Arab rulers who have resisted social and political change, and have shown no inclination toward sharing their vast unearned wealth with less fortunate Arabs.

In intervening with so much zeal and force to "defend Saudi Arabia and liberate Kuwait," the United States is conveying the dangerously cynical message that the only Arabs it cares about are those who are rich and have oil.

Most Arabs, meanwhile, have become convinced that if it takes a confrontation with the West to draw attention to their political and economic grievances, then

only after 1982-83. Regardless of how the Gulf crisis ultimately resolved, the region will undergo political upheavals to release ever-building popular pressure and redress longstanding social and economic injustices which have long been tolerated, if not encouraged, by the West.

If the United States decides to go to war to preserve the status quo, however, it will be setting a dangerous historical precedent. The untold devastation to Arab life and property, possibly including oilfields, will undoubtedly fuel anti-American sentiment throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds.

To quote Mohammad Haikal, a prominent Egyptian political commentator: "Force is sterile and will lead to nothing. The best approach is to seek a new Arab order for the future. Respect for borders, however arbitrary, should be balanced by a sharing of wealth. Legitimacy should also reflect human values and aspirations and the fact that these change with time. No solution will succeed unless it offers a vision."

Khalil Barhoum is a senior lecturer in the department of linguistics at Stanford University and a founding member of Alternatives: Arab Council for Change. He wrote this article for the Mercury News.

Worth remembering is that the taking of American hostages and hijacking of American airplanes by Lebanese Shi'ites became a much-dreaded reality

## Bush adds religion to U.S. arsenal against Iraq

By Richard Walker  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's call to 250 million Americans to pray daily from Sunday for divine aid for U.S.-led forces in the Gulf war adds a spiritual dimension to the military campaign being waged against Iraq.

In so doing, Bush went over the heads of major U.S. Christian, Jewish and Muslim sects and appealed directly to the faithful for moral endorsement of what he insists is a "just war" which transcends and embraces all creeds.

The U.S. president in the past week increasingly sought to claim the moral and religious high ground for the allied campaign to expel Iraq from Kuwait — even as the Iraqi leader proclaimed again that God is on Baghdad's side in a "holy war" against invading Western infidels.

In addition to an official proclamation naming Sunday a "national day of prayer," Bush

told sympathetic religious broadcasters the allied cause qualifies as a "just war" under traditional Christian teaching begun with the 5th century Catholic theologian St. Augustine of Hippo.

U.S. president have used the White House as a national pulpit during civil emergencies for 200 years. But Bush confessed to a "prayer breakfast" in Washington on Thursday that since the war started "I should have made more clear that God is our rock and our salvation."

Major U.S. religious groups — Christian, Jewish and Muslim — report increased attendance at worship services since the war began and growing cash donations for humanitarian aid to refugees and other war victims.

"There's no question attendance has increased since the war started. People want to do something about the war but realise they can't do anything except pray. There's great anxiety and frustration,"

Deacon Chris Baumann, a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic conference, told Reuters.

The United States remains the most religious nation among the major industrial democracies with polls saying more than 40 per cent of adults attend weekly worship.

Christian fundamentalists and fervent Jewish supporters of Israel are most supportive of the U.S. role in the conflict, but it is also widely backed at present by moderate and conservative Catholic and Protestant groups.

The estimated four to six million U.S. Muslims are sorely split by the conflict, their leaders say, as are Orthodox and Catholic Christians of Arab descent.

"We don't need Bush to ask us to pray because we hate war and were already praying for him and the armed forces every Sunday," declared Bishop Anton Khouri of the Antiochian Orthodox Church.

Southern Baptist roving Evangelist Billy Graham, a

White House guest when the war began, joined many pro-Bush religious leaders by declaring a military strike the lesser evil.

But deep divisions remain over Washington's policy among top religious leaders, many of whom were young clergymen during the Vietnam war when liberal to moderate U.S. Christian and Jewish congregations often became centres for anti-war activism.

Bishops leading the 55 million U.S. Catholics told Bush on Jan. 14 that a U.S. offensive against Iraq "would likely violate" moral criteria required for war to be deemed moral. They have been silent as a group since the war though individual bishops have taken opposing public positions.

Bush's own spiritual leader, Episcopal (Anglican) Bishop Edmund Browning, joined heads of several major Protestant and Orthodox churches in pleading against war and new declarations are expected next week.

## The president won't fool history; his administration violated or ignored the principles for successful negotiation

# Is this any way to wage peace?

By John E. Mack and Jeffrey Z. Rubin

"THE war in the Gulf is not a war we wanted. We worked hard to avoid war. For more than five months we... tried every diplomatic avenue... but time and again, Saddam Hussein flatly rejected the path of diplomacy and peace."

These were the words President Bush used in his State of the Union address Tuesday, in a bid to be remembered kindly by the generations of tomorrow as a leader who pursued every avenue towards peace but was reluctantly drawn into war.

On the contrary, the actions and decisions taken by the United States after Aug. 2, while having the appearance of diplomacy for peace, were in fact the result of deliberate choices toward a very different end. It was these choices — the president's assertions notwithstanding — that moved us inexorably along the path to war.

We demonised and dehumanised our adversary. We indulged in personal name-calling, false analogies to past wars and demonic leaders of earlier times, then deliberately provoked Hussein through threats and insults. In this way we demeaned and humiliated our opponent, while lessening his incentive to respond to the pleas that were directed to him by so many individuals and nations.

We denied our own contribution to the problem. By placing the blame entirely on the shoulders

of our adversary, failing to acknowledge our own contribution (bolstering Iraq's war machine and giving permissive signals before the conflict began, for example) we put him on the defensive and further limited his ability to respond constructively.

We relied exclusively on the threatened use of force. The value of personal, quiet diplomacy, even with a leader as brutal as the Iraqi president, was disregarded and surely added to his defiance. In an interview with ABC's Peter Jennings in November, Hussein asked that a dialogue be conducted between himself and President Bush "... in which the eyes can meet."

What he got was not dialogue but preconditions for capitulation.

Having taken the position that only military power could "solve" the Gulf crisis, we then shrouded our hegemonic intent in the guise of collective will. Using the newly invigorated United Nations as a cover, we represented our determination to use force as being the result of a genuinely joint decision by the international community, rather than what it largely was: an American-engineered unilateral initiative.

We disregarded the other side's stated grievances and claims, while demanding unconditional surrender. Our original position was doomed to failure if what we sought was peace. By demanding that Iraq give up

Kuwait unconditionally, while offering no negotiating incentives, we forced Hussein into a corner from which he could perceive no way out but martyrdom or fighting back.

We took no account of cultural differences. We listened to those who said that Hussein was non-religious, and interpreted his invocations of Allah and the Koran as cynical political manipulation. We failed to consider the people's dual heritage as Iraqis and Muslims, and thus Hussein's willingness to martyr himself and to sacrifice his people in standing up to the Western "infidel."

**We disregarded the other side's stated grievances and claims, while demanding unconditional surrender. Our original position was doomed to failure if what we sought was peace.**

Our policy-makers relied exclusively on advisers who, following the conventional logic of power politics, predicted that Hussein would surrender Kuwait rather than permit his power to be destroyed.

We offered a response that was disproportionate to the problem. We assembled an overwhelming destructive force in the Gulf without adequately anticipating the consequences of using it as threatened. We ex-

aggerated the original problem by arguing that international boundaries are inviolate — "sanctified," declared Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.), one of the principal proponents of the war policy. This overstatement of reality contributed a further element of ideological rigidity to justify the use of violence. In fact, Kuwait's boundaries were arbitrarily drawn in 1961 by the withdrawing British colonialists.

We overcommitted ourselves to a course of action. By developing a U.N. deadline, to which we adhered with rigid insistence, we lost room to manoeuvre and to explore peaceful methods of re-

solving the conflict. Instead, we locked ourselves into a belligerent military position and swiftly came to believe that we had invested too much in it to quit. An offer to negotiate after the Jan. 15 deadline would have placed us in a position of unacceptable weakness, giving the scope of our commitment by then.

We used public presentation of conditions in order to intimidate the other side. Our public

assertions — "no negotiation, no face-saving, no linkage" — had the effect of hardening Hussein's response, not intimidating him. Withdrawal from Kuwait under the conditions we had publicly defined would have all but guaranteed his personal humiliation — something we may have wanted but that he would never have accepted.

We paid lip service to efforts at diplomatic solution. We indulged in a hypocritical pretense by announcing our "willingness to go the extra mile for peace," then refusing Hussein's demand that a meeting take place closer to Jan. 15 than we liked. We were willing to talk only on our terms, which we knew Hussein would have to reject.

We derogated the other side's conciliatory gestures. By warning that Hussein would attempt to use concessionary behaviour to pull the wool over our eyes, we made it all but impossible to give the other side the benefit of the doubt. For example, Hussein's initiative in releasing hostages was viewed not as a show

of good faith, or a desire to move toward settlement, but as a cunning attempt to manipulate world opinion.

We insisted that the conflict be regarded as zero-sum. We entertained only two possibilities: Hussein could get out of Kuwait, or he could remain there and invite expulsion by force. Consistently overlooked or dismissed were all alternative approaches that could turn a win/lose exchange into one with opportunities for both sides to do well. For example, we might have expressed a willingness to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict while officially disclaiming linkage to the Gulf crisis.

In conclusion, the Bush administration's approach to dealing with the unjustifiable Iraqi invasion of Kuwait violated the principles of political psychology, negotiating theory and the appropriate conduct of international relationships. If our purpose was to destroy Iraq as a military and political power in the Middle East, which now seems apparent, the American people were never informed of such an intention.

John E. Mack is president-elect and Jeffrey Z. Rubin is vice president-elect of the International Society of Political Psychology. Mack is a professor of psychiatry at the Harvard Medical School and founding director of the Centre for Psychological Studies in the Nuclear Age. Rubin is a professor of psychology at Tufts University and executive director of the Programme on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. — Los Angeles Times.

## The New World Order

By Dr. Zaki Ayoubi

President Bush posited a number of justifications for the massive military intervention in the Gulf. One of these justifications is that this intervention heralds the onset of a new world order. This concept has been presented to the U.S. public opinion and to the world; including the Arab World, which is most affected by the Gulf crisis.

What is this new world order? What is it supposed to do in contributing to global stability and economic development?

While the world public opinion is not familiar with a detailed articulation of this new world order, its conception, from various indications and acts, is being interpreted in the Arab World to mean that in the post cold war era, this will be a unipolar world in which the U.S. with its pervasive military power will lead Western countries in imposing its view of what is the "correct" distribution of power in the world. It is viewed that within this new order, any power in the world that attempts to obtain more power than what the U.S. desires will be stopped and possibly destroyed by military force.

Within this interpretation of the new world order, the only regional military power in the Middle East was the strategic ally of the U.S.: Israel. Any attempt by any Arab country to challenge this "balance" will be countered and destroyed by force. If Iraq is the Arab country to build its economic, technological and military capability, it will have to be destroyed. This is the basic interpretation of the new order as perceived in the Arab World, when it is stripped of diplomatic language and academic abstraction. If another Arab country attempted to do what Iraq tried to do, it would have met the same treatment from this unipolar new world order.

But the tragedy is that to most Arabs and Muslims, indeed to most of the developing countries in the world, this new world order has a ring of familiarity to it. It sounds like neo-colonialism. Big, industrialised countries dictating what is "new" and what is the acceptable "order."

The only thing that is changing in the post cold war era are the rules of the game. While small and medium-size countries and developing regions used to depend on a rough balance of power between East and West to get some breathing space, now they have to deal only with one power.

The East-West balance of power has changed to a North-South imbalance of power with the North dictating to the rest what is "law and order."

What the Arab World seeks and wants is a new world order where Arab and Muslim countries are active members and where there is enough balance between multipolar powers which would create conditions for Arab countries to exchange their resources with the rest of the world on reasonable terms. They seek a world order where they can enjoy the fruits of economic development. They seek societies that enjoy more freedom, more democracy, a more humane and just social order.

Can it be that the new unipolar world is only a transition stage to a multipolar one where power is balanced among several power centres? But whether the world is dominated by one or several industrialised countries, is it not clear after so many wars and destruction that military might is not a sufficient or a reliable base for a world order?

The Arab World has legitimate grievances. It seeks more open, humane and democratic societies. It seeks a better distribution of wealth among the rich and the poor Arab countries. What it does not seek is a new face of colonisation and exploitation.

The Arabs reject their treatment with double standards of international law and morality. The Arab World seeks a place in a truly "new" world order in which it has a fair and just set of duties and rights within the family of nations. Is that too much to ask?

Dr. Zaki Ayoubi is a businessman and consultant. He is a member of the board of directors of the Amman World Affairs Council. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.



## Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

but only after careful coordination with Washington which has sought to keep Israel out of the war.

"The time for us to take direct action against the Iraqi enemy will come when we ourselves make a decision to this effect in accordance with circumstances," he said. The address was shown live on television.

"At that time, an appropriate process of consultations with the United States will be necessary, for obvious reasons connected to the military reality in the field, as long as the United States and its allies are in the combat zone," Mr. Shamir said.

Mr. Shamir said during an earlier meeting with New York Mayor David Dinkins that Israel was eager to fight but was staying out of the Gulf war to ensure victory by U.S.-led forces.

## Use of car

(Continued from page 1)

work in government offices, he said.

Mr. Badran said that the new experiment would be simple enough if the citizens set up committees in various districts to coordinate transportation facilities and to find a common plan that would help everyone.

He said that private school students were being transported individually by car, but the process would be extremely economic should there be a bus to take all the students to and from school altogether.

The prime minister said that the Iraqi people are "now facing a devastating war but are setting a great example of steadfastness."

"The Iraqi people have no water supplies and they resorted to the water of the Tigris River, boiling it and drinking it and they have no petrol stations although the weather is extremely cold in winter by night, but the Iraqis are coping," he noted.

"Those who want to survive in the face of the extremely difficult circumstances should be ready to do without luxury at a time when the Jordanians cannot predict the future," Mr. Badran said.

"We cannot predict what the enemy is doing for us and we might be forced to take further austerity measures should we be facing air raids, but we have contingency plans for every emergency should the need arise," the prime minister said.

For example, he said, the government could, if need be, issue red, green and yellow cards to be stuck on each vehicle assigning the days during which the car can run etc.

The prime minister said that Public Transportation buses will be augmented by buses from the JETT company to help transport the citizens to and from work.

Mr. Badran said the oil conservation moves were temporary and that use of cars on alternate days would save up to 35 per cent of petrol consumed.

He said Jordan's oil reserves over the past four months had been replenished with Iraqi oil supplies.

"Our reserves have been full on an average of 96 per cent compared to what he had (before) Saudi Arabia decided to cut off oil supplies in September when we had reserves for between 12 to 14 days," he said.

"We were able to build a strong fleet of oil tankers and compensate for what we lost from Saudi Arabia by directly importing oil from Iraq and we were able to increase our strategic reserves," he said.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department announced Monday that the government decision concerning private cars does not cover military vehicles, vehicles used by the handicapped people which have special facilities and vehicles arriving in Jordan from the border posts regardless of the number on the plates.

The announcement said that all police stations, patrol cars and traffic police have been given clear instructions to carry out the government order.

## Hit-and-run

(Continued from page 1)

Qadisiyah promised retaliation. "As the Iraqi army and people await and prepare for the land confrontation, they grow more confident and assured about victory," said the Al Qadisiyah editorial.

Baghdad has the upper hand in conducting the war, the paper said, "not in terms of weaponry but in terms of determination to achieve victory."

Al Thawra said Iraq's strategy in the impending ground war would be hit-and-run.

"Combat on the Saudi periphery should be based on the hit-and-run tactic formulated by our ancestors," the newspaper said.

The article provided the first Iraqi explanation of why Iraqi troops attacked the Saudi town of Khafji last week and withdrew after 30 hours of heavy fighting.

Iraqi troops are prepared for more incursions like the one against Khafji, said the daily, adding that the strategy is meant to prolong the war and inflict more allied casualties.

B-52 bombers have caused very heavy civilian casualties in Iraq, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman said in Tunis.

Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said the bombers had caused "considerable losses among civilians" and those responsible "should be brought to trial."

Quoting Iranian sources in Tehran where he had talks on Sunday, Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghozali told French television and radio there were several thousand Iraqi casualties after allied air raids (see page 2).

Twenty peace campaigners flew into Britain Sunday after the closure of their peace camp on the Saudi Arabia-Iraq border and also said the allies' air bombardment of Iraq had inflicted many civilian casualties.

The campaigners, mostly Britons, said they left their camp at Judat Dal Arar Wednesday when the Iraqis warned they could no longer guarantee their safety.

They were taken to Baghdad, where they spent several days, and then driven by bus to Amman, for the flight home.

"We saw a lot of civilian destruction, though to be honest there must have been accurate targeting because most of the buildings which have gone were military or government," said campaigner Penny Butterall.

# War exposes blind spots in U.S. intelligence

By Jim Wolf  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Due to deep earthen bunkers, decoys and other feints, Iraq has kept a lid on many battlefield secrets despite one of the most intensive intelligence operations in history on the allied side.

"I guess there is a tendency to believe that because we know what we do know from intelligence that we must know everything," Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said this week. "And of course, we don't."

Among the gaps: the mobile launchers used by Iraq to fire 54 Scud ballistic missiles in the first 15 days of the Gulf war, half towards Saudi Arabia and half towards Israel.

Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, allied commander in the Gulf, has equated finding the launchers with looking for "a needle in the haystack." At a Jan. 18 briefing in Riyadh he said estimates of their number "varied very widely, even within the intelligence community."

Iraq appears to have fooled overhead reconnaissance, at least some of the time, by using

decoy launchers, officials said.

At other times, troops cram launchers into underground shelters before allied pilots can react to infra-red sensors that detect heat given off as the missiles are fired. That information can be in the hands of U.S. battlefield commanders in just 90 seconds.

U.S. intelligence also has been hard-put to gauge the impact of relentless allied bombing on elite Republican Guard units — the core of Iraq's military power — because they are dug in deeply.

"It's one thing to do bomb-damage assessment on a building," Williams told Reuters. "It's another thing on tanks that are hidden, people that you can't see. So you can't do battle damage assessment on the Republican Guard the way you can on a power plant."

Intelligence also may have fallen short in the war's first major ground fighting. Late on Tuesday, Iraqi tanks and infantry thrust across the Kuwaiti border into Saudi Arabia at four points in assaults that killed at least 11 U.S. marines.

Invading troops took two marine reconnaissance teams by surprise north of the Saudi town



of Khafji, Marine Colonel John Admire told reporters there after the town was retaken.

Brigadier General Pat Stevens of the U.S. central command denied any failure in allied preparation for the Iraqi attack.

"We probably have the finest

ability to see the battlefield of any armed force in history," he said at a briefing on Thursday.

"There's no failure, absolutely none."

For its eyes in the sky, the United States is reported to have at least five orbiting KH-11

"keyhole" satellites — each capable of picking out objects as small as a licence plate — plus a Lacrosse satellite that uses radar to peer through clouds and collect images 24 hours a day.

In addition, the United States has advanced "signals intelligence" satellites hovering over the equator to intercept Iraqi walkie-talkie, phone and radio traffic.

One obvious blind spot stems from the difficulty of recruiting informants in a totalitarian society like Iraq's.

"It's a closed, authoritarian society," said William Colby, head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency from 1973 to 1976.

Ironically, Iraq's partial success in thwarting U.S. intelligence may be due in part to tips Washington gave it about Iraqi vulnerabilities during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Howard Teicher, a National Security Council staff member from 1982 to 1987, said shared U.S. intelligence helped Iraq enhance its command apparatus and military communications.

For instance, Saddam, aware of U.S. eavesdropping capabilities, may be sending false radio messages to throw the allies off the track while his true orders move through underground cables, Teicher said.

"The net effect of our advising them undoubtedly enhanced their ability to now cope with us," he said.

## LETTERS

The following letter was sent to 26 heads of states and organisations on Jan. 24, 1991

## Ceasefire please

Your Excellency:

THE International Women in Jordan urgently appeal to our respective governments to call for an immediate ceasefire to halt the devastation which is taking place in the Gulf. It is madness to destroy in order to rebuild; and it is insane to start war in order to have peace. We appeal to the United Nations General Assembly to call an emergency session to insist on a ceasefire and to demand that the Gulf crisis and all Middle East conflicts be resolved in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

As His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly warned, the world is threatened by ecological disaster if the oil well are burned in the Gulf. The U.S. military in Saudi Arabia recently reported that a few oil wells are now burning in Kuwait. This madness must stop before it is too late. We do not condone either sides' actions in this conflict. The massive military buildup in the Gulf will not bring peace to the region, it will only compound the problems of the Middle East, it will only compound them.

There are millions of people demanding sanity in this horrible violation of human rights, please listen to us. We want all of the problems in the Middle East resolved, and the United States government cannot make unconditional demands and expect to settle the Iraqi invasion while totally ignoring the Israeli invasion of Palestinian lands and refusing to make similar demands of them. What difference does a linkage or non-linkage scenario matter now. The world is threatened and we are not concerned at this point about linkage or non-linkage, save face or embarrassment. There is more at stake than these petty naive issues. The two main characters in this massive must act now! Is there not one leader out there willing to be a little embarrassed but brave enough to save the world from destruction? The only concern should be for the people who are dying unnecessarily and the threat of unsurmountable devastation that is surely going to happen if this insanity is allowed to continue. People are people in the world over. Since when did God differentiate between Americans, Israelis or Arabs. We are all equal in God's eyes. The United States should not treat Israelis better than other nationalities. The U.S. administration and the American Jewry are depleted over the missile attacks on Israel recently. Are these same people not also devastated and concerned over the destruction and deaths being inflicted on the Iraqi Arab people at the same time? Are these same people not also devastated and concerned over the ongoing destruction and deaths continually being inflicted on the Palestinian Arab people by the Israeli military? Are these same people not concerned that Israel has occupied Palestine and committed these atrocities for 24 years now? Why haven't these atrocities been addressed as of yet? Do they not disturb the U.S. government and the rest of the world?

Peace with God's blessing.

International Women in Jordan

## Putting the record straight

I congratulate Mariam Shahin on her excellent article on the Feb. 2 issue of the Jordan Times, on page two under the banner "Gulf war is against people..." I would however refer her to a statement which she reported, made by John Livesey a member of the Gulf Peace Team, in column three of her article.

She reported me as saying "we were at the mercy of the Iraqis, and we had to trust them and you can trust the Iraqis because they keep their word."

With due respect to the reporter at the conference, and the nature of the statement that I made I wish to point out that the first part of my statement as reported, is incorrect. What I said was "we were the guests of the Iraqis" not "we were at the mercy of the Iraqis."

I would never make a statement such as you printed in relation to the Iraqi people or their officials. We were their guests and the Iraqi people were generous and thoughtful hosts. They always kept their word, and for my part I never lost faith in them.

I would be grateful if this can go on the record. In relation to your report that I was emotional and controversial I plead guilty. I do not need to justify expressing emotion, and acting in an appropriately controversial manner when hospitality is abused, and you witness cultural insensitivity to generous hosts.

I always become emotional and controversial when I see the manipulation of truth which is always the first casualty.

The press conference held under the name of the Gulf Peace Team was a squeaky clear facade. There were attempts to gag people both before, and during the conference, and no mention was made by any speaker of the real hero of the Gulf Peace Team both at the border camp, and in Baghdad. I refer to our Arabic speaker Saadallah Atrih

also a British national. Without Saadallah the Gulf Peace Camp would never have functioned. It was Saadallah Atrih who smoothed the way when difficulties arose, and calmed people when danger threatened. Saadallah twice risked his life after war broke out to bring stores back to the camp at Ar'ar. Saadallah was on call 24 hours of the day. His commitment was total, and he had the confidence and trust of the Iraqi people and their officials. This confidence was never broken. Saadallah Atrih was not mentioned at the press conference and I would be grateful if you would publish this tribute.

A tribute must also be paid to the Indian group who were part of the Gulf Peace Team. Their contribution to the cause and peace both individually, and as a group was total, as was their kindness, and consideration for others. They put many to shame.

The Gulf war is not about the freeing of Kuwait. It is about the total destruction of the Arab Nation, the control of oil, and the death of poor people, and children for the material benefit of wealthy nations. A Jordanian friend told me of an Arabic saying which goes "the death of the poor, and the scandal of the rich is hushed, so nobody will know the truth."

The struggle of the Arab people is about dignity and peace, and a peace for everybody in the world.

When I return to New Zealand my work will be to tell everyone the truth about the Gulf war.

Yours sincerely

John Livesey

## Ultimate conspiracy

To the Editor:

The article titled "The CIA President and Israel" written by V.F. Ayoub was splendidly written and hopefully will be published and will be read in the world.

I liked the following sentences the best I quote: "It (America) cannot stop aiding Israel at any cost, nor is there a foreseeable cure. Truly it is a 'special relationship', and a strange one as well."

Similar articles have also been written in the Western press a few months ago and each time the true core of the problem has not been stated. Why?

Surely, it can only be the Christian-Zionist Movement (the Militant Evangelists). They pledge complete and absolute support in every way for the survival of Israel and rebuilding of their temple on the site of the Al Aqsa Mosque. They endeavour to fulfill Old Testament prophecies even to the point of nuclear war.

Iraq in their view threatens Israel and so must be destroyed by any means. Reagan certainly and no doubt Thatcher have been greatly influenced and even "controlled" by them and consequently the world's many innocents are now suffering.

This is the "ultimate" conspiracy.

Yours truly

Catrina Saje

Amman

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## Higher interest rate puts extra strain on European car industry

LONDON (R) — The European car industry, already looking precarious, could suffer up to a 10 per cent drop in 1991 sales because of world recession and an unexpected rise in German interest rates, industry analysts say.

The German Bundesbank (central bank) last week raised its key interest rates half a percentage point, putting pressure on other European central banks to do likewise.

"This puts an extra strain on the car market," said analyst John Lawson of the Nomura Research Institute in London.

The Dutch central bank has already followed the German interest rate increase.

Lawson estimated that another half percentage point rise, if kept in place for about six months, would shave another full per cent

age point off total annual European car sales.

"I'm now expecting European car sales to drop by 10 per cent in 1991," he said. Last month he expected a seven per cent fall. Industry forecasts do not take account of the Gulf war because analysts expect any loss in sales to be made up when the fighting stops.

"People are still hoping that Germany will hold up strong. Perhaps that is an optimistic assessment. I think the higher German rate will check production growth there," he added.

The German rise came as a surprise after speculation that the Bundesbank would resist the monetary pressures of unification.

Car sales in Europe fell an average 1.5 per cent in 1990 to

just over 13 million vehicles after a five-year boom.

For Britain, the most depressed European car market, the German move shattered hopes of an imminent reduction in the 14 per cent base rate and kept the economy in its straitjacket.

The British car market was already expected to drop the most this year, followed closely by Spain and Italy.

"By this German rate rise the U.K. car industry is liable to be extra damaged," Lawson said.

Ford of Britain has introduced a four-day work week to keep production down but says it will not dismiss any staff. But at other companies employees will have to go.

Regie Nationale des Usines Renault of France said last week it would cut production and dismiss staff for a number of days at

its gear-box and engines units. It had already cut production by 25 per cent at some of its car plants.

Sweden's Saab Automobile A.B. said it would cut its production by 2,500 cars during the first three months of this year.

And Fiat SPA of Italy is laying off 70,000 employees for two weeks this month.

Only German car makers and General Motors' European units have stayed out of the fray, riding on the back of a surge in Germany caused by extra demand from the former communist east.

But even Germany is not likely to escape unscathed.

The Automobile Industry Association says it expects growth in domestic car production to slow to one per cent in 1991 after a 2.6 per cent rise in 1990.

## War pushes up prices of basic commodities in Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The Gulf war has pushed up the prices of basic commodities by around 25 per cent, but those of some consumer durables fell by almost 30 per cent, the director of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce said Sunday.

Abdullah Dahlan attributed price increases to escalating insurance costs for shippers who send rice, sugar, milk, meat and other commodities to the kingdom.

The war has led to sharp hikes in insurance rates as the region is now considered a war zone.

But Dahlan praised the Saudi private sector for helping transport vital supplies to the troops as well as keeping ordinary consumers well supplied.

While many foreign companies were refusing to ship goods to the Gulf, "we have been able to

overcome this by depending on Saudi airlines and other national and Arab companies."

He said local businessmen also were supplying commodities to the market "in large quantities and for a satisfactory period of time without an increase in prices beyond the capabilities of consumers."

The Saudi private sector has been absorbing some of the added insurance costs from its profits so as to limit the commodity price increases, Dahlan said.

He said the war has still pushed up the prices of basic commodities by around 25 per cent but those of some consumer durables fell by almost 30 per cent.

Dahlan said the fall in durables' prices was due to a falloff in demand: "In a wartime situation, people tend to save their money

by maintaining their luxury items for a longer period."

He complained that some Western suppliers were asking for payment up front, instead of allowing payment to be deferred as in the past.

"Some companies insist on taking their money in advance," Dahlan said. "We can understand this, but we believe their attitude is a little bit exaggerated."

The war has led to the postponement of a number of investment projects, he acknowledged.

"These investments have not been cancelled, but postponed, especially in the Eastern Province

of Saudi Arabia where the war is taking place," Dahlan said.

But he said other projects were proceeding normally, including a large petrochemical complex in Yanbu on the Red Sea, and he painted a generally rosy picture of the Saudi economy.

"The Saudi economy is very strong and we are acting on that basis," Dahlan said. "The government hasn't closed any of its industrial, agricultural or estate funds although most of us expected it to do so as a result of the war and the economic difficulties which might develop from it."

## Bush requests \$295 billion for military

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Faced with pressure to cut arms spending despite the Gulf war and new strains in U.S.-Soviet relations, President George Bush Monday asked Congress for a \$295.2 billion defence budget for the 1992 financial year, \$3.7 billion less than current spending.

The proposal does not include funds for rising U.S. costs of the Gulf war, estimated to be over \$500 million daily. But the Defense Department will ask Congress this month for an addition to the current \$298.9 billion budget to help pay that cost.

The budget for the financial year beginning next Oct. 1 is part of a five-year military reduction plan which would sharply cut the number of U.S. troops, warships, aircraft and other weapons by the end of 1995.

While it seeks reductions in programmes, it also calls for a major increase to \$4.58 billion next year for the controversial Star Wars space-based anti-missile programme.

Among programmes to be halted in the next two years

would be the army's Bradley fighting vehicle, the navy Trident ballistic missile submarine, the air force F-16 fighter jet and modernisation of the navy F-14D fighter jet.

The current fleet of 14 navy aircraft carriers would be reduced to 12 by the end of fiscal 1995. The number of ships in the navy would drop from the current 545 to 451.

But among the most divisive issues in the 1992 budget are expected to be Bush's proposed \$1.68 billion increase in the lagging Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), commonly called Star Wars, and a Pentagon request for \$4.8 billion for the radar-avoiding B-2 Stealth bomber.

The Pentagon spending plan for 1992 could be changed drastically in coming months in a fight over current and future military needs based on the Gulf war and changing U.S.-Soviet relations.

Most members of Congress are pressing for deep cuts in defence spending to help reduce the federal deficit. But many have also voiced concerns over what

they see as a threat by right-wing forces in Moscow to Soviet military reductions and the move towards a more democratic government.

Monday's defence proposal envisions military outlays of \$295.2 billion next year, \$292 billion in 1993, \$286.7 billion in 1994, \$288.6 billion in 1995 and \$293.2 billion in 1996. Those figures represent a major drop after allowing for inflation.

Under the long-range plan, America's two-million-member armed forces would be reduced by over 111,000 next year and by nearly 400,000 by the end of 1995. That long-range cut is planned despite a Gulf war which has forced Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to call up over 200,000 part-time reserve troops to support a half-million U.S. troops now in the region.

The Pentagon will seek \$4.58 billion for lagging Star Wars next year.

The proposal would far exceed the \$2.9 billion being spent this year on the SDI programme, which former president Ronald

Reagan launched in 1983 to defend the United States against any massive Soviet nuclear attack.

After a modest initial outlay of \$1.4 billion following Reagan's proposal, Star Wars spending climbed to a peak of \$3.6 billion in 1989. Since then, it has dropped steadily to a low of \$2.9 billion in the current fiscal year based on budget reductions and improvements in U.S.-Soviet relations.

Bush told Congress in his State of the Union speech last Tuesday night that he wanted to focus SDI on mounting defences against more limited attacks rather than massive Soviet attack.

But analysts said that Congress was unlikely to approve either a major Star Wars increase or the full \$4.8 billion sought for the radar-avoiding B-2.

Only two of the B-2s have been built. The air force wants to buy 75 of them at an expected cost of \$850 million each.

Bush, constrained by war and recession, Monday sent Congress a \$1.15 trillion budget that is

likely to be remembered more for its record deficit than any of its new initiatives.

The spending plan for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 seeks more money for the war on drugs, space exploration and education. But in most cases, the increases are modest.

The budget also proposes giving the states complete control over some \$21 billion in federal aid in areas ranging from education to sewerage construction.

But overhauling the entire budget was the forecast for the largest deficit in U.S. history. The budget said the deficit for the current fiscal year would hit \$318.1 billion, meaning that through this year the government will be going into debt at a rate of nearly \$1 billion a day.

For fiscal year 1992, the president's budget forecasts that the deficit will decline slightly to \$280.9 billion, a figure that still would be far above the previous deficit record of \$221.1 billion set in 1986.

The U.S. government blamed the flood of red ink on the recession and on the huge costs of the rescuing insolvent financial institutions.

White House Budget Director Richard Darman pegged \$105.5 billion of the 1991 deficit increase off the financial system bailout and said another \$87 billion was caused by falling government receipts, due primarily to the recession.

In his budget message, Bush conceded that the longest peace-time economic expansion in history had been "temporarily interrupted" but he contended that his budget proposals would enhance the chances for future growth by increasing investments for education, research and development and the country's transportation system.

Bush said his budget "lays the groundwork of a brighter future, protects our national interests and helps create the conditions for long-term economic growth and prosperity."

The 1992 budget calls for government spending of \$1.116 trillion, a 2.6 per cent increase over the current fiscal year, meaning that the overall increase will not keep up with inflation. Government revenues are projected to total \$1.165 trillion with the shortfall representing the \$280.9 billion deficit projected for 1992.

Reflecting the eternal optimism of presidential budgets, Bush still predicts that he can balance the government's books, projecting the budget will be in surplus by \$19.9 billion in 1996. That would be the last year of Bush's second term if he is reelected next year.

The president recommends a budget, but Congress must authorise government spending.

In pay for the programmes being increased and to help reduce the budget deficits, the administration is seeking to save \$16.6 billion over five years by

cutting such government programmes as Medicare, farm subsidies, student aid and child nutrition.

It did not propose any tax increases to help narrow the deficits but instead called for a tax cut in capital gains, the profits earned from the sale of investments.

The budget was built on an economic forecast that acknowledged a recession, albeit a brief and mild one with an economic rebound occurring by mid-year.

If the recession turns out to be deeper, it would make the deficit forecast even worse. Another major factor which could send the deficit soaring was the cost of the Gulf war.

Darman said Monday that the budget assumed the war would cost the United States \$15 billion with the rest coming from contributions from foreign countries, a projection that critics call highly suspect. Darman said foreign pledges already totalled \$51 billion.

Just a year ago, officials were estimating that the 1992 deficit would be \$25 billion and on the way to a surplus in 1993, when a balance budget was to be required by law.

The law never produced the promised deficit reductions and the old targets were scrapped last year when Congress passed a measure focusing more on controlling spending than reaching specific deficit targets.

The October budget package was hailed as the largest deficit reduction effort in history, including \$182 billion in spending cuts and tax increases over five years.

However, the savings envisioned in that proposal have been overtaken by the current recession and the savings and loan bailout.

## Prices go up in Turkey to fund military spending

ISTANBUL (R) — A fresh round of price increases has hit Turkey for state-controlled goods and services. A government official said they were to help fund growing defence spending.

Prices rose by 10 per cent in the state-run paper industry Monday while telephone and post fares were raised by between 30 and 45 per cent electricity prices by three per cent at the weekend.

Domestic air fares will rise by between 26.1 and 33.3 per cent on Feb. 15 and government sources said price hikes were on way for sugar, tea, railway fares, iron and steel and state-run tobacco products.

The public sector price increases are likely to spread fast into the economy and push inflation higher. Inflation on a year-on-year basis rose 62 per cent in January from 60.4 per cent in December.

Detergent prices went up by up to 25 per cent, flour by 20 per cent and cooking oil by 17 per cent at the weekend, the liberal daily Milliyet reported.

The bulk of some \$913 million Turkey received so far in Western aid to recoup its Gulf losses had gone to defence spending, Finance Minister Adnan Kahveci has said.

Nine out of every 10 Turks are against war, recent newspaper polls show.

In further signs of Ankara's growing cash bottleneck, businessmen said the government was suspending debt payments to the private sector and newspapers have said the state has "seized" cash holdings of profitable state firms.

Academics in Istanbul told Reuters Monday universities were ordered to cut all budgeted spending. The government has also banned strikes for two months during the Gulf war.

The 1991 budget envisages a deficit of 20.05 trillion lira (\$6.7 billion), more than double last year's estimated deficit of 9.4 trillion lira (\$3.1 billion) — or nine per cent of gross national product.

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### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, February 4, 1991

Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	664.0	668.0	
Pound Sterling	1311.4	1319.3	
Deutsche mark	452.5	455.2	
Swiss franc	529.9	533.1	
French franc	132.9	133.7	
Japanese yen (for 100)	598.0	599.0	
Dutch guilder	401.3	403.7	
Swedish crown	120.7	121.4	
Italian lira (for 100)	60.2	60.6	
Belgian franc (for 10)	219.7	221.0	

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.9800/9810	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1585/95	Canadian dollar	
	1.4628/35	Deutsche mark	
	1.6490/6500	Dutch guilder	
	1.2511/18	Swiss franc	
	30.15/20	Belgian franc	
	4.9800/50	French franc	
	1100/1101	Italian lire	
	131.10/20	Japanese yen	
	5.4975/25	Swedish crown	
	5.7400/50	Norwegian crown	
	5.6470/20	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	366.75/367.25	U.S. dollars	

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — After a shaky start, stocks closed higher as buyers took heart following a sharp rally in the bond market. The All Ordinaries Index surged 16.9 points to 1,319.4.

TOKYO — Stocks closed firmer for the first time in six trading days, as most participants ignored developments in the Gulf and concentrated on corporate earnings and other domestic factors. The Nikkei Index closed up 130.66 points at 23,287.36.

HONG KONG — Institutional buying of blue chips and positive sentiment sent share prices higher in quiet trading. The Hang Seng Index ended up 16.73 points at 2,130.54.

SINGAPORE — Shares closed firmer on a buying spree by individual investors ahead of Chinese New Year. The Straits Times Index closed up 5.93 points at 1,273.65.

BOMBAY — Shares finished sharply higher on widespread buying by state-run mutual funds. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rallied 30.09 points to 1,052.03.

FRANKFURT — German shares failed to follow through on a strong opening but the Dax Index closed 8.52 points ahead at 1,435.03 — the highest close since Dec. 19.

PARIS — The CAC-40 Index rose 3.65 points to 1,581.73. "There has been some buying but it has been very, very selective," said one trader. "People are looking at stocks that have been ignored."

LONDON — Profit-taking chipped away early highs. The FTSE Index closed at 2,172.4 up 6.7.

NEW YORK — Investors flocked to secondary issues. At 1640 GMT the Dow Jones Industrials were up 9.16 points to 2,739.85.

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## Lithuanian leaders counterattack against pro-Kremlin Party

VILNIUS, USSR (AP) — Lithuanian authorities have gone on the counterattack against the leadership of the republic's pro-Kremlin Communist Party. Officials also said the Kremlin's crackdown on Lithuanian independence caused 36 million rubles (\$57.6 million) in property damage.

In Moscow, the Communist Party blamed separatist movements in Lithuania and other republics for creating a "social crisis in the country (that) has reached the danger limit, beyond which destructive social upheavals are possible."

The Lithuanian prosecutor has started an investigation of Juozas Jarmalavicius, the ideology chief of the Lithuanian Communist Party faction that is loyal to Moscow, said parliament spokesman

Andrius Azubalis. Jarmalavicius, 51, describes himself as a spokesman for the National Salvation Committee, a shadowy group that reportedly requested the Jan. 13 Soviet troop assault on the Vilnius broadcast centre that killed 13 people.

The committee later proclaimed it had seized power in the republic.

Azubalis did not say what charges Jarmalavicius might face. But the TASS news agency reported that Jarmalavicius was under a criminal investigation for public calls for violating the sovereignty of the Lithuanian state and urging the violent overthrow of the state.

TASS also quoted parliament officials as saying that an investigation has begun into whether

"functionaries" of the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party were members of the National Salvation Committee and took part in what it described as "unconstitutional" activities.

Lithuania's Economics Ministry said the month-long actions by Soviet troops have damaged equipment, roads, buildings and cars, according to Azubalis.

Property losses from the Jan. 13 attacks by Soviet paratroopers and tanks totalled 17.6 million rubles (\$28.16 million), Azubalis said.

Throughout Vilnius, damage to pavement and other public facilities was put at 3 million rubles (\$4.8 million). Soviet forces occupied several buildings in the capital before the Jan. 13 assault. Azubalis said several thousand

people were thrown out of work because their offices were occupied.

The troops seized a police academy, the republic's main publishing plant, a newsprint warehouse and other buildings, taking them away from pro-independence forces.

Lithuania is leading a campaign by the Baltic republics to regain the independence they lost when Soviet troops took control in 1940. President Mikhail Gorbachev has said Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia must hold a referendum on independence if they want to leave the union.

Lithuanians are scheduled to register their opinion in a "general poll" on independence on Feb. 9, but it is not clear whether Gorbachev will accept the results.

## Civil war inevitable, Soviet colonel says

MOSCOW (AP) — Viktor Alksnis says he's "just a regular guy," but Soviet reformers call him one of the "black colonels" forcing Mikhail S. Gorbachev to roll back reforms or face a bloody civil war.

"The conflict could start at any moment," Alksnis said in an interview last week with the Associated Press. "The situation in hot spots of the Soviet Union is so bad that spontaneous military action might take place there."

Alksnis, forgoing his blue air force stripes, wore a black leather jacket and badges identifying him as a member of the Soviet and Latvian legislatures.

Lounging in his suite at the Moscow Hotel near the Kremlin, the tall, beefy 40-year-old radar engineer seemed an unlikely candidate to lead the reaction against Gorbachev's reforms. Alksnis's grandfather, a three-star general in the Red Army, was shot as a traitor by dictator Josef Stalin.

Alksnis says he has three political goals: a state based on laws rather than power, an economy based on market forces rather than central planning along the Stalinist model, and a voluntary rather than a forced federation of the 15 Soviet republics.

Yet, a few minutes after former Foreign Secretary Eduard A. Shevardnadze announced his resignation on Dec. 20 with the

warning that "dictatorship" was stalking the Kremlin, Alksnis strode victoriously to the podium. Alksnis, his ice-blue eyes flashing under swept-back black hair, applauded the resignation of Shevardnadze, considered a reformer, and proclaimed himself a "hawk" and a "reactionary."

Although Shevardnadze did not mention Alksnis by name, he castigated "colonels" who were using legislative pulpits to badger Gorbachev into undoing much of perestroika.

Several reform newspapers have dubbed Alksnis and some of his colleagues the "black colonels."

The seeming contradictions in Alksnis's position underscore the difficulty of understanding the current political situation in the Soviet Union, where the reformers seem to be under attack by their former hero, Gorbachev. And such apparent hardliners as Alksnis adopt the form if not the substance of perestroika: democracy and greater openness.

"Call me Viktor," a jovial Alksnis said. He began the interview by proclaiming, "I'm just a regular guy."

The same Alksnis accuses Gorbachev of betraying army officers who, responding to a call from the shadowy Lithuanian National Salvation Committee, attacked the Vilnius broadcast tower on

Jan. 13. Thirteen civilians and one soldier were killed in the attack, the goriest chapter to date in the crackdown on the secessionist Baltic states.

Gorbachev has denied advance knowledge of the Vilnius attack and other incidents that have claimed five lives in neighbouring Latvia.

Alksnis said, "Gorbachev must have been informed."

"Any movement of armed troops in the Soviet Union can occur only if the president gives an order or is informed," he said. "We don't have a copy of this order, but the Defence Minister does not have the right to send troops to any part of the Soviet Union, especially in the Baltics, without having an order from the president."

Alksnis said Gorbachev sanctioned creation of the National Salvation Committee in the Baltics, intending them to rival elected legislatures.

Gorbachev "wanted to establish dual power in Lithuania and Latvia, and to make the Supreme Soviet (legislatures) and the committees equal, and then to de-throne both and proclaim presidential rule in the republics," said Alksnis. Since November, Alksnis has been demanding direct presidential rule in restive republics.

## N. Ireland bomb injures civilians

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — A bomb exploded on a van parked outside an army camp in Sunday night, slightly injuring a number of civilians, police said.

British news reports said Irish Republican Army guerrillas forced a man to drive the explosive-laden van toward the military camp. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the explosion near the camp in Magherafelt, County Londonderry.

The bomb, which exploded beside the base's perimeter fence, wrecked houses near the Ulster Defence Regiment base 48 kilometres west of Belfast, a police spokesman said.

"The house shook when the bomb went off," said reporter Tommy Walls, who lives nearby. "I was watching television with my wife and young daughter when there was a massive blast at the back of the house."

"Everything went out for a few minutes and the house filled with smoke. At the windows at the back of the house were blown in. It's the same story right along the street."

## EC considers easing S. Africa sanctions, punishing Soviet Union

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers met Monday to consider whether to ease sanctions against South Africa and punish the Soviet Union for its crackdown on the secessionist Baltic republics.

The foreign ministers were also to consider proposals aimed at overhauling the EC's farm subsidy policy that could offer better prospects for breaking the impasse in the Uruguay round world trade talks.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said that if the "new and very positive developments" continue in South Africa, "it will only be a matter of a very short time until sanctions will be lifted."

On Friday, South African President F.W. de Klerk asked parliament to repeal all the remaining major apartheid laws.

"We welcome his statement," Irish Foreign Minister Gerald Collins said as he entered the EC meeting. "It shows how courageous he is."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was expected to push for the lifting of the mild economic sanctions the EC imposed against the white minority government in 1986.

However, it was considered

unlikely that a final decision would be taken at Monday's meeting.

The 12-nation trade bloc currently bans imports of iron, steel and gold coins from South Africa.

At an EC summit in Rome in December, the member states lifted a ban on new investment in South Africa in support of De Klerk's earlier reform policies.

The EC foreign ministers will also consider whether to cool relations with the Soviet Union to protest the Kremlin's recent bloody crackdown on the independence movements in the three Baltic republics.

The EC member states are set to put a \$540 million technical assistance programme to the Soviets on hold. The European Parliament already suspended discussion of a \$1 billion food aid programme until the end of the month.

But German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher said Sunday that despite the current turmoil, the "basis of long-term and increasingly close cooperation with the Soviet Union must not be abandoned, much less destroyed."

Office mired in internal strife, the member states will also study progress in talks aimed at developing foreign and security

policy.

Collins said Sunday that the Gulf crisis "hasn't made it any easier for us but we are all still determined to move down that line."

The EC ministers are looking at using diplomacy to establish a post-Gulf war order.

Genscher said the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe agreement could be used as the basis for a new Middle East order based on renunciation of force, disarmament and cooperation, the recognition of the state of Israel and the Palestinians' right of self-determination.

"The Community should play a full role as best it can to ensure that the post-crisis situation is approached as well as possible," Collins said.

The ministers also will further assess a proposed overhaul of the EC's costly farm subsidy policy that has stalled progress in the Uruguay round of world trade talks. The United States and the Cairns Group of agriculture exporting nations blame the EC's farm support programmes for the "lack of a breakthrough in the talks."

The outline for the proposed overhaul project calls for tightened controls on overproduction and cuts in price supports.

## U.S. soldiers bank sperm before shipping out

SEATTLE (AP) — Soldiers worried they may be killed or injured in the Gulf war are banking their sperm at hospitals before shipping out.

"Most are worried or subjected to chemical warfare and won't be able to reproduce," said Mary Forster, director of the Reproductive Genetics Division at Seattle's Swedish Hospital. "I was shocked when it first started." Officials at Swedish Hospital and at Puget Sound Hospital said they have received several phone calls inquiring about the sperm banking service, when the U.S. military buildup began in the Middle East. The hospitals have frozen and stored the sperm of several soldiers. One unmarried 19-year-old Marine had his sperm frozen at Swedish Hospital last September. "He said that if something happened to him and he couldn't reproduce, it would be extremely devastating to him," Forster said. "He said having a family had always been very important to him." One couple who stored the husband's sperm at the Puget Sound Hospital has already picked out names for children that could be conceived. Dianne Smith, associate director of the hospital's Sperm Bank, said, "Sperm Bank technology, where sperm is frozen and stored for an indefinite period in liquid nitrogen, has been widely available for 10 years."

## Women's underwear good-luck charm for U.S. soldiers

NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA (R) — You would never guess what some men take into battle. In the U.S. army's Airborne Division, some soldiers are tucking underwear sent by their wives or girlfriends into their helmets as good-luck charms and mementoes.

Medical Sergeant Sal Garcia Jr. doffed his helmet the other day, glanced about furtively and then pulled a perfume-scented pair of panties from his bullet-proof helmet. "When I put my helmet on, I think of her because of the perfume," said the 24-year-old Garcia, from Norwalk, California. "Her" is a woman named Kelly that Garcia met just a month before he left for Saudi Arabia in August. He says the panties will bring him luck when he goes into battle and remind him that someone is waiting for him back home. Others say they plan to follow Garcia's example. One said he spent two months persuading his wife to send him some of her underwear. She finally relented, but now he is embarrassed each time he has to wash them. Sergeant Christopher Bolner of Lexington, Kentucky, said he sent his girlfriend's black panties back because the constant reminder proved too much for him. "It was going nuts," he said. The majority of soldiers carry more conventional mementoes — photographs of their loved ones.

## Bishop says St. Paul may have been gay

WASHINGTON (R) — A controversial U.S. bishop has stirred the biggest row of his career with a new book saying the Christian apostle St. Paul may have been a "self-loathing and repressed" homosexual. Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong of Newark, New Jersey, told Reuters his just-published book, "Paul: A New Vision," on the sexual proclivities of the renowned first-century "apostle to the gentiles" was not meant as a criticism. Spong said his new book on Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism aims at making writings of Paul and other Christian scripture more relevant to modern readers. The bishop wrote that Paul was likely to have been a secret homosexual and added: "Nothing else could account for Paul's self-judging rhetoric, his negative feeling for his own body and his sense of being controlled by something he had no power to change." Homosexuality has sparked considerable debate in many Christian denominations, including the Church of England, the Catholic Church and Spong's Episcopal Church which is part of the 70 million-member Anglican communion. But controversy is nothing new for Spong, who last year was censured by fellow bishops for ordaining a self-avowed gay activist as a priest and has crusaded for black, women's and gay rights, including church sanction for "gay union." "It's one of the craziest things I've heard so far," declared Roman Catholic Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of Newark when told of Spong's book.

## Church accuses Salvadorean army of massacring peasants

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The Roman Catholic Church's Legal Aid Office has accused army troops of last month's massacre of 15 peasants. It called the slaughter "a summary and arbitrary execution" and "a grave violation of international humanitarian law."

The office issued a 17-page document describing the massacre of eight women and seven men the night of Jan. 21-22 in the hamlet of El Zapote, 10 kilometres north of San Salvador.

"The characteristics of the case and the manner in which it happened... lead logically to the presumption that all the evidence indicates solely and exclusively the responsibility of members of the 1st Infantry brigade," said the office. El Salvador's most widely respected human rights organisation.

According to children who

escaped the massacre, the victims, who ranged in age from 14 to 68 years, were roused from sleep in their bamboo-and-mud homes at about 11 p.m. on Jan. 21 by several men wearing dark uniforms and armed with rifle and knives. The attackers' faces were covered with kerchiefs, the witnesses said.

Over the course of the next two hours, the houses were ransacked and their adult occupants killed — 12 of them by knife wounds and three by bullets.

The Legal Aid Report, based on interviews with children and neighbours of the victims, presents arguments that led the office to discard either robbery or inter-family feud as motives for the slayings. It concluded the motive must then have had to do with the country's 11-year-old civil war between leftist rebels

and the U.S.-backed military.

The evidence cited was circumstantial and did not include concrete proof, such as ballistics tests or fingerprints, implicating individual members of the San Salvador-based 1st Infantry Brigade.

The church said it had been more than 13 months since armed insurgents had been known to pass through El Zapote but that, on the other hand, the hamlet was the scene of almost continuous army patrol. It pointed out that 1st Brigade troops maintained a guard post at an electricity generating plant about half a mile north of the scene of the crime.

It said survivors and neighbours reported that the attackers arrived from the north and withdrew toward the north after committing the massacre.

## Vital equipment was not working when U.S. planes collided — experts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Federal investigators said Sunday that the controller's view of the airport runway where a Usair jetliner crashed a smaller commuter plane was blocked by a light pole, and a key radar system wasn't working.

The controller directed the jetliner and the smaller plane onto the same airport runway, resulting in a crash that killed 33 people.

The controller was also busy talking to another controller moments before the crash, Jim Burnett of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said late Sunday at a news conference.

The NTSB Saturday released highlights of about five minutes of conversation between the controller and pilots just before the crash Friday night at Los Angeles International Airport.

Burnett said the taped, tower

traffic showed Usair Flight 1493 twice asked the controller for permission to land and received no response.

About two minutes before the crash, a controller directed commuter Skywest Flight 5569 with 12 people aboard to enter runway 24 left for takeoff, and the tape had the same controller giving the Usair pilot permission to land on 24-left.

The tape also included an unidentified voice shouting: "What the hell?"

Moments later, controllers acknowledged a collision and fire had occurred on the runway.

Burnett, who gave an oral account of the tapes, would not say whether the controller had erred.

"We don't deal in terms of fault. That's a word the safety board doesn't use," he said. Within seconds of touching

down after a westbound descent over Los Angeles, the twin-jet Usair Boeing 737 ran into the back of the smaller plane, which was about to take off.

The controller, whose name wasn't released, and her supervisor submitted to urine drug tests, Burnett said. Blood tests for alcohol also were requested of the two and four other controllers on duty at the time.

The controller and her supervisor, under standard procedure, have been placed on administrative duty and will not handle air traffic until the NTSB investigation is completed.

Burnett said Sunday a federal investigator in the control tower noted that four light poles illuminating a baggage-handling area blocked the view of the crash site. "One of those structures was dead in the middle," Burnett said.

## Trial of Winnie Mandela begins

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Winnie Mandela, looking relaxed and confident, appeared in court Monday to face charges of assault and kidnapping.

The trial involves more than a criminal proceeding against the wife of African National Congress Deputy President Nelson Mandela. It also poses a threat to the credibility of Nelson Mandela, the ANC and even talks on ending white-rule.

Prosecutors were given a four-hour delay to question witnesses as Mrs. Mandela and three co-defendants appeared in the courtroom. Four other defendants did not appear and prosecutors said they would seek warrants for their arrests.

The four missing co-defendants, who were ordered to report to police stations weekly under conditions set last year, have failed to do so since December, police said last week.

## Thai premier to push for Cambodian accord

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's prime minister Monday agreed to try to bring together Cambodia's warring factions again to discuss a draft U.N. peace plan, the government spokesman said.

Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, French Deputy Foreign Minister Edwige Avice and U.N. Deputy Undersecretary General Rafeeduddin Ahmad. The prime minister was asked to help arrange a meeting of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, government spokesman Pridiyatorm Tevaktul told a news conference.

The 12-member council consists of an equal number of representatives of the Vietnamese-installed Cambodian government and the three guerrilla factions.

Chatichai agreed to contact the factions within the next two weeks, but no date or site had been decided for a meeting. Pridiyatorm said.

The Supreme National Council last met in Paris in December, when it failed to agree on the draft of the U.N. plan. The proposal

calls for disarming the factions and a major U.N. involvement in Cambodia's administration before national elections.

The guerrillas fully support the plan, but the Phnom Penh government has rejected some key elements.

Alatas, Ms. Avice and Ahmad were also scheduled to meet representatives of the three guerrilla factions. They arrived in Bangkok Sunday from Vietnam, where discussions were held with Vietnamese leaders on the U.N. plan.

Alatas told reporters on his arrival in Bangkok that the talks in Hanoi had been quite positive. Vietnam had pledged to support efforts by France and Indonesia to overcome objections to the peace plan by discussing it with the Cambodian government, he said.

Phnom Penh's official radio Saturday welcomed the talks in Vietnam and Thailand, but reiterated the government's insistence that any negotiations take into account Cambodia's sovereignty and guarantee against a return to power of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge.



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